

hope to have something to announce one way or another very shortly.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Not one way or another—one way!

* * *

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

INQUIRY WHETHER TERMS OF REFERENCE OF McDONALD COMMISSION WILL BE CHANGED

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I ask the Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council if he can tell the House whether the government is considering any change or amendment to the order in council or orders in council affecting the terms of reference of the McDonald royal commission?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council): No, Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any consideration being given to a change in the terms of reference. There may be some consideration being given by the Minister of Justice, but I am not aware that any such matter has been considered by the government.

Mr. Clark: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the Deputy Prime Minister inform himself, and undertake to report to the House of Commons on Monday whether consideration is being given to any change in these terms of reference; and, if so, what change is being contemplated and what discussion has ensued with members of the royal commission?

Mr. MacEachen: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I shall advise the Leader of the Opposition whether any changes are under consideration by the government with respect to the terms of reference.

* * *

METRIC SYSTEM

INQUIRY WHETHER REVIEW OF CONVERSION BEING CONSIDERED

Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce in his capacity as minister in charge of metric conversion.

Knowing the warm feelings the minister had in the past toward metric conversion, I wonder whether since assuming his responsibilities as minister in charge of metric conversion he has reviewed the program, or does he intend to continue at the present rate? Has he any plans to modify this program?

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, with regard to metric conversion, nearly every country in the world has now gone metric.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Business of the House

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: How is it in Damascus?

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, when I was with those people over there, I did not get as much applause as I do now.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Horner: I think that, considering Canada's effort to export more finished, manufactured goods, it is of the utmost importance that we keep in step with the manufacturing world. Certainly, we are watching very closely metric conversion in the United States and attempting to keep in step with that industrial nation.

Mr. Hees: How about the Horner conversion?

Mr. Neil: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The minister is probably aware of the problems with metrification in Great Britain and Australia.

In view of the report of the general accounting office in the United States which, in effect, says that the cost of converting to the metric system is prohibitive, and in view of the fact there is doubt in the minds of legislators in the United States whether they will proceed with metrification, I ask if the minister has read this report or met with his counterparts in the United States to consider the effect a decision against metrification might have on our trade relations with the United States.

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, I am quite aware of the problems the United States has had in this respect. They passed a law some 200 years ago suggesting that the manufacturing industry could go metric if it wanted to do so. Only in the last ten or 15 years has that country made strides toward metrification. I am well aware of the problems and the confusion which rests in the minds of some legislators.

* * *

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have, as a result of yesterday's proceedings, a number of notices on procedural matters. I can only repeat the order in which I received them. I had a notice from the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath), from the hon. member for York-Scarborough (Mr. McCrossan), from the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte), and from the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Goodale). I do not know if the points are still applicable in respect to which these notices were given but, if they are, I should proceed to hear them now.

● (1202)

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I think some of us know that when we get to statements there is to be a statement respecting an important anniversary having to do with the Declaration of Human