

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

has turned down repeated requests for the creation of a special committee of the house to investigate the charges of Generals Simonds and Macklin, would he consider the appointment of a royal commission to do so?

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, if a royal commission is appointed it will be announced in due course. It has not yet been considered.

**Mr. Hamilton (York West):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker; is the Prime Minister aware that reports of these charges are now being published throughout the foreign press of the world, and that it may seriously affect Canada's position in international affairs?

**Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East):** I would not be surprised to learn that anything sensational is being reproduced in the press throughout the world, but I do not think these reports will affect the status of Canada in world opinion.

**ATOMIC ENERGY****MEETING OF AMERICAN REPUBLICS TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR ELECTRIC POWER**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. I apologize for not having sent him a copy, but I am quite sure he will be able to answer it now. The *Montreal Gazette* of today's date announces that President Eisenhower has "invited all the American republics to name representatives to an inter-American committee" for "developing nuclear electric power". It does indicate in one place in the report that the invitation was to American republics, but it seems to me it must mean countries. I wondered if the Prime Minister would be able to say whether this inter-American committee would include Canada and, if so, what are the objectives of the inter-American committee?

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker. This, I understand, is a meeting that is being called by the president of representatives of the members of the Pan-American union to which Canada is not a party, and that it is to discuss the practical ways of making nuclear or atomic energy available for peaceful purposes. Of course, we have been for many years in close contact with the United States and the United Kingdom in investigating the practical ways of bringing that about, but we have not been invited to this special meeting of representatives of the Pan-American union.

[Mr. Hamilton (York West).]

**NATIONAL REVENUE****REQUEST FOR LOWERING OF TARIFF ON METAL STORAGE BINS FOR FARMERS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Revenue of which I have not had a chance to give him notice, but he has a telegram about it. I would like to ask him whether a decision has been reached with regard to the request of a Winnipeg farm equipment distributor, Mr. Shaefer, in connection with the tariff on metal storage bins for farmers. He has asked that the tariff be reduced, and has communicated with the minister in that connection. Has the minister any statement to make now?

**Hon. J. J. McCann (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, I had a communication yesterday from Mr. Shaefer, and the matter is under consideration now between Mr. Shaefer and the deputy minister, Mr. Sim. Mr. Shaefer indicated, following our conversation, that he would communicate with the customs and excise division of the Department of National Revenue. My own opinion on this matter is that under the tariff items as they now stand the article has been properly classified by the departmental officials. However, further consideration is being given to the matter. I have not been in communication with my deputy this morning, but I presume that by this time the matter has been determined one way or the other.

**LETHBRIDGE—REFERENCE TO EDITORIAL IN LETHBRIDGE "HERALD" OF AUGUST 8**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. H. Blackmore (Lethbridge):** Mr. Speaker, I desire to direct a few questions to the Minister of National Revenue, notice of which I have just sent him. Is it a fact that the Lethbridge income tax office has been serving the southeastern British Columbia area, as well as the southern Alberta area? Has the minister read in the *Lethbridge Herald* of August 8 the editorial entitled "Arguments Silly", commenting upon the proposed closing of the Lethbridge income tax office on September 1? When did the minister first have that editorial drawn to his attention? Did he read that editorial then? Did the minister, then, not know yesterday that this editorial set forth almost completely the evidence embodied in the Holberton letter?

**Hon. J. J. McCann (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, I have just been handed the questions asked by the hon.