

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

not yet been concluded. Any statements such as this are premature, and they probably do not help very much to settle this difficult question.

**NORTHERN AFFAIRS****FEDERAL PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCE ON  
NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, based on a little news tidbit.

In view of the announcement in Victoria on May 7 by Premier Bennett that a conference of heads of government and technical officials from Alaska, the Yukon and British Columbia will be held there on July 19, and in view of the fact that there are three government jurisdictions involved including the government of the United States, would the minister inform the house whether the Canadian government is participating in the organization of this conference and, if so, why the announcement of the conference has been made only by Premier Bennett of British Columbia?

**Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the federal government is not involved in this conference in any way. I think this explains the last part of the question, as to why Premier Bennett made the announcement.

According to the information I have, the conference was first suggested by the governor of Alaska, to be held in Alaska. Premier Bennett was unable to attend at that time, and I understand he suggested that the meeting be held in Victoria. The commissioner of the Yukon Territory, who has jurisdiction in the third area, was also invited to attend. The purpose of this conference is stated to be to discuss matters of mutual development. The conference has no official status because neither the government of the United States nor the government of Canada is involved.

(Translation):

**PUBLIC SERVICE****INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF  
QUEEN'S PRINTER**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Azellus Denis (St. Denis):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Solicitor General (Mr. Balcer)?

Could the Solicitor General tell the house for what reasons the government is taking so much time in appointing a successor to Mr. Edmond Cloutier as queen's printer?

**Hon. Leon Balcer (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, as I have previously stated, this is a matter of general government policy. When a decision is taken, it will be made known to the house.

**Mr. Denis:** A supplementary question. May I ask the Solicitor General whether the civil service commission or the government itself is responsible for this appointment?

**Mr. Balcer:** It is a responsibility of the government.

**Mr. Denis:** Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the Acting Prime Minister with regard to the appointment of a Queen's printer? Could the minister tell us whether there is a prescribed time limit governing this appointment and after which the appointment is automatically abolished?

(Text):

**Hon. Howard C. Green (Acting Prime Minister):** An announcement will be made on this question in due course.

**PENSIONS****INQUIRY AS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF PORTABLE  
PLAN**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Erhart Regier (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** I should like to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare whether he is able to report on the progress that is being made in the efforts of his department to establish a so-called portable pension plan, especially for industrial workers.

**Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** As I mentioned in a statement before the standing committee on estimates recently, one of the outstanding weaknesses of present industrial pension plans is that they do not provide transferability of pension rights from one employer to another. This is a subject which was commented upon in the Clark report, and which is being studied.

I might point out also that at least one provincial government, that of Ontario, has established a six-member committee to conduct a special study of portable pensions. The findings of this group should be of great value.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East):** May I ask a supplementary question. Has the government study of the Clark report reached the stage where the government will be able to take some action consistent with its promise to the people at the last general election?

**Mr. Monteith (Perth):** Mr. Speaker, the government of course is fulfilling its promises as declared at the last general election. As I