

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Is the minister aware that every time inspectors go to Quebec municipalities to check, officers of Mr. Laporte's department inform the municipalities concerned that some federal inspectors are going over there to collect funds?

Mr. Marchand: No, Mr. Speaker.

[*English*]

FISHERIES**QUEBEC—FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries based upon a press release from his department yesterday regarding a joint federal-provincial fisheries development project in the province of Quebec involving, among other things, the use of helicopters and the like. Will such facilities and services as have been available to eastern Canada and Quebec for the past few months be made available to British Columbia in the near future?

Hon. H. J. Robichaud (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I wish to assure all members of the house that there will be no discrimination whatsoever in so far as British Columbia is concerned.

Mr. Howard: When are you going to look westward?

[*Translation*]

URANIUM**INQUIRY AS TO DISCUSSIONS RESPECTING SALE TO FRANCE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Henri Latulippe (Compton-Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Would he advise the house about the stage of negotiations between France and Canada concerning the sale of uranium?

[*English*]

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): I am afraid that I cannot help the hon. member, Mr. Speaker. I have had nothing at all to do with contracts dealing with uranium.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs but he has left the house without authority.

Mr. Pickersgill: He is in the house.

[*Mr. Marchand.*]

DRUGS**ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER COSTS**

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (for the Minister of National Health and Welfare) moved:

That a special committee be appointed to continue the inquiry into and to report upon costs of drugs, begun by special committees during the twenty-sixth parliament;

That the committee consist of 24 members to be designated later by the house; and be empowered to sit while the house is sitting;

That the committee be empowered to consider and recommend, as it may deem expedient, respecting a comprehensive and effective program to reduce the price of drugs;

That the committee be empowered to send for persons, papers, and records, and to report from time to time, to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be deemed advisable, and to engage the services of counsel, accountants, and such other technical and clerical personnel as may be deemed necessary;

That the minutes of proceedings of and evidence given before the special committees at the 26th Parliament be referred to the said committee and be made part of the records thereof;

That the provisions of Standing Orders 66 and 67(1) be suspended in relation to such committee.

Motion agreed to.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Rinfret in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

1. Departmental administration, \$4,862,900.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Chairman, the departmental estimates have recently had some considerable attention and we in this party now wish to conclude the examination thereof provided we receive answers to one or two questions. A moment ago I mentioned to the Prime Minister that I intended to refer to some remarks he made last evening. I am not going to hold him up but I want him to know that I am going to make some reference to those remarks because they revealed a rather unusual viewpoint about the operation of parliament. Indeed, they would appear to indicate that his attitude is that the United States system is in some particulars to be preferred to ours and that a rather difficult situation has been created under our system of government whereby the Prime Minister and ministers of the Crown are subject to daily questioning in the house.

I know the Prime Minister has an appointment, as he informed me a moment ago, but I simply want to refer to the words indicative of an attitude that whatever the government says is good and that the opposition should not question the government as to what it