

can readily give a reply. If my hon. friend will read the statement made by the Prime Minister at the conference in July—

**Mr. Churchill:** I have read it.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):**—he will see it was agreed that we would meet on the official level to take steps to implement the announcement of government policy made by the Prime Minister at that conference.

### FINANCE

#### INSURANCE COMPANIES—POSSIBLE LEGISLATIVE ACTION BY GOVERNMENT

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Can the minister inform the house whether his meeting or meetings with insurance company officials and others resulted in agreement on necessary legislative action? If so, when may we expect the minister to introduce such legislation?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance):** I had very useful discussions with the general insurance companies, the Canadian companies that write fire, theft and accident insurance, on possible improvements in legislation. They made a number of suggestions to us and we made a number of suggestions to them. My officials are preparing some drafts which will be discussed shortly with the industry. Then I expect I will be bringing forward some legislation. I cannot predict now when that will be. I should add, however, that the Canadian companies, while they felt some improvement in legislation was possible, did not feel the failure of North American General was a serious blow to the reputation of Canadian insurance companies.

**Mr. Lewis:** May I ask a supplementary question. In view of the minister's reply, I should like to ask whether his officials are considering legislation concerned with the interests of policy-holders and Canada's economy, or whether they are considering legislation concerned with the interests of general insurance companies?

**Mr. Sharp:** Needless to say, Mr. Speaker, the interests of policyholders are very much involved in the reputation of the insurance companies themselves.

**Mr. Langlois (Mégantic):** May I ask a supplementary question?

### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The Chair recognizes the hon. member for Athabasca. There have been two supplementary questions and we have to move on, since there are only 30 minutes for questions today.

### NATIONAL DEFENCE

#### NEW CLASSIFICATION OF PIPERS AS MUSICIANS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. F. J. Bigg (Athabasca):** I have a question for the Associate Minister of National Defence. Is it true that the Minister of National Defence has reversed the decision of the defence staff to put pipers into a different category from musicians?

**Hon. Léo Cadieux (Associate Minister of National Defence):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. An announcement was made today that the decision to separate pipers from musicians in the recently announced new trade classification has been reversed. Henceforth pipers will be in the same category as musicians for all matters, including trades pay. As the immortal Robbie Burns might have put it:

Their skills and craft hae put me daft,  
They've ta'en me in, and a' that;  
So pipers now musicians are  
Wi a' their blaw and a' that!

**Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South):** I have a supplementary question for the Associate Minister of National Defence. Now that the Minister of National Defence is in the mood, is he going to make a few more reversals?

### POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

#### ROBERT BURNS—REQUEST FOR COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** I have a question for the Prime Minister. May I say that I certainly appreciated the accent of the associate minister in his reply; it was excellent. In view of the fact that today is the anniversary of the birthday of that great Scot, Robert Burns, and in view of the fact I am sure the Prime Minister has a very soft spot in his heart for all the Scots who have contributed and are contributing to this country, may I ask the right hon. gentleman if the government would give consideration to issuing a stamp, during this centennial year, as has been done in the past not only by Britain but by the Soviet union, to honour Burns and all the Scots in this country?