

He said: His Excellency the Governor General, having been made acquainted with the subject matter of this resolution, recommends it to the consideration of the house.

Motion agreed to.

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—PREPARATION FOR WORLD TRADE CONFERENCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Peel): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Will he inform the house what steps are being taken and what progress is being made by the united nations economic and social council by way of preparation for the prospective world trade conference; and, when he is answering the question, will he say whether there is any possibility that the conference will be convened this year?

Hon. J. A. MacKINNON (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I have had no notice of the question, and I am not sure that it is properly directed to the Minister of Trade and Commerce; but I shall confer with the Prime Minister and see what answer can be given.

Mr. GRAYDON: May I point out that I delivered notice of the question to the minister's office at two o'clock to-day or thereabouts. Perhaps there has been some mishap.

Mr. MacKINNON: The cabinet was in session up to half past two to-day, and that may be the reason for my not receiving it.

Mr. GRAYDON: Perhaps the minister or the appropriate member of the cabinet will take the question as notice and have it answered to-morrow.

PRIVILEGE

MR. LENNARD—REFERENCE TO ARTICLE IN OTTAWA "JOURNAL" OF JULY 3

On the orders of the day:

Mr. F. E. LENNARD (Wentworth): On a question of privilege, I wish to refer to an article that appeared in last night's *Ottawa Journal*, to the effect that Mrs. Fred Rose had conferred with a number of members of parliament in an effort to end the isolation of her husband in a Montreal gaol. In this article she is quoted as follows:

I believe I can say that all the members of parliament with whom I have talked have expressed themselves as against this policy of isolation . . .

I feel, Mr. Speaker, that this is a reflection on many of the members of this house, and

I want it distinctly understood that I was not one of those interviewed.

In this connection I should like to ask the Prime Minister if he can say when the seat for the riding of Montreal-Cartier will be declared vacant.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Until the pending appeal has been heard and a report of a conviction made to His Honour the Speaker from the court, the seat will not be declared vacant. Further consideration will be given the matter after the final decision of the court.

BUILDING MATERIALS

SHORTAGE OF CEMENT IN SOUTHERN ALBERTA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): May I ask the Minister of Finance whether he has taken occasion to look into the cause of the cement shortage in southwestern Alberta? The other day I asked whether he would be good enough to do so. That there should be a shortage of cement in Canada is something which it is beyond my power to understand.

Right Hon. J. L. ILSLEY (Minister of Finance): I did look into the matter, and I intended to write to my hon. friend. When he asked the question I said I thought it was hardly a proper question to be answered before the orders of the day. However, the information that I have received is that there is no greater shortage in that part of the country than there is elsewhere, and the shortage is due to the heavy demand.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT

CLARIFICATION AND EXTENSION OF PROVISIONS AND BENEFITS

Hon. HUMPHREY MITCHELL (Minister of Labour) moved the second reading of bill No. 243, to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1940.

Mr. C. C. I. MERRITT (Vancouver-Burrard): Speaking to the amendment which is now proposed to the Unemployment Insurance Act, I should say at the outset that for the most part, so far as one has been able to understand this very long bill in the short time at our disposal, the changes are very welcome indeed, and a revision of the act in the light of the past five years' experience is timely.

I was glad to note, when I read the report of the debate on this bill in the other place that the advisory committee is now looking