

Inquiries of the Ministry

36, R.S.C. 1927, or under section 411 or 412 of the Criminal Code, 2 and 3 Elizabeth 2nd, c. 51, and amendments thereto, and what penalties were imposed in each case?

Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Return tabled.

FEDERAL WORKS, LAKE ST. JOHN CONSTITUENCY

Question No. 1,241—Mr. Lessard (Lake St. John):

1. What is the nature, place and value of federal works under way or completed in the constituency of Lake St. John during 1962?

2. What is the nature, place and estimated value of federal works at present under study for the constituency of Lake St. John?

3. What amount did the Department of Public Works spend in each of the ten provinces of Canada during 1960-61, and to November 1, 1962?

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

INQUIRY AS TO SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
DEFENCE POLICY

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the government has come to any decision regarding the setting up of a special committee on defence policy.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): The view of the government, as was the view expressed by the hon. gentleman himself on more than one occasion, has always been that questions of policy are for the government to determine. We have no intention, therefore, to set up a committee on defence policy.

INQUIRY AS TO ACTION RESPECTING DIVORCE BILLS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Leon Crestohl (Cartier): I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister inform the house whether the government will introduce legislation or take other steps to solve the impasse which parliament and the country is facing as a result of the blockade of the divorce bills now before parliament?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think this question is receiving consideration among the representatives of the three parties.

TRANSPORT

RAILWAY BRANCH LINES—CONSIDERATION OF
SUGGESTIONS OF PROVINCES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern): I should like to ask the Prime Minister what action is being taken to meet the suggestions of the provinces and other interested parties with

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regard to railway abandonment in Canada and the recommendations of the MacPherson commission report.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): The premiers of the three western provinces asked for a meeting with the government of Canada for the purpose of placing before the government their views on the abandonment of railway facilities in western Canada. We received a message on the 10th of this month. On the 11th we advised that at that time we did not think a meeting would be beneficial. Since then a bill has been completed in its draft form. It will not be introduced until these provincial governments have an opportunity of presenting their views. An indication has been given that we are prepared to meet with the premiers of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta on January 28.

ARTS, LETTERS AND SCIENCES

SUGGESTED ROYAL COMMISSION TO STUDY
CANADIAN CULTURAL SITUATION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): May I direct a question to the Prime Minister and ask him if the government has taken a decision with reference to the inquiry on bilingualism and biculturalism, as proposed in this house by my hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): I think this is a question which should be dealt with at some length. I will make a statement tomorrow before the orders of the day, if the house will allow setting out the view of the government on this question and also on the alternative thereto which the government intends to support, namely, the bringing together in convocation of the representatives of the various provinces of Canada, believing, as this government does, that matters as important as this, which touch on the constitutional development of our country, must be considered in consultation on the basis of a spirit of unity.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NUCLEAR TESTING—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT
RESPECTING ON-SITE INSPECTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I wish to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the hon. gentleman any information to give the house with respect to the most interesting announcement recently by Premier Khrushchev with