

*Inquiries of the Ministry***CANADIAN FLAGS**

INQUIRY AS TO PROCLAMATION OF RED ENSIGN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gilles Gregoire (Lapointe): My question is directed to the Prime Minister.

Has the Prime Minister received in his mail today a circular letter saying that order in council No. 5888 of September 5, 1945, proclaimed that the flag commonly called a red ensign was the distinctive national flag?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think that the hon. member must admit that this is no time, on the orders of the day, to ask if such and such publications, pamphlets or letters, etc., have been received.

(Text):

TRANSPORTCORNWALL, ONT.—LEAK OF CHLORINE GAS
FROM RAILWAY TANK CAR

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lucien Lamoureux (Stormont): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the near catastrophe which happened in Cornwall on Friday evening last resulting from a leak of chlorine gas from a tank car on a railway siding, will the minister discuss with the board of transport commissioners what precautions can be taken to prevent the recurrence of such a tragic accident?

(Translation):

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): I shall be pleased, Mr. Speaker, to look into this problem.

(Text):

VETERANS AFFAIRSLAKEHEAD—USE OF NON-VETERAN SOLICITORS
IN LAND ACT TRANSACTIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hubert Badanai (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In reply to my question No. 434 on the order paper, which asked the minister if he had received a communication from the Royal Canadian Legion, branch No. 6 of Fort William, protesting against the practice of the director of the Veterans Land Act in using non-veteran solicitors at the lakehead, on October 31 I received the reply that a communication had been received and the matter was being investigated. My question is, can the minister indicate to the house whether he has the result of the investigation?

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Veterans Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker. This involves the Department of Justice as well

[Mr. Speaker.]

as the Department of Veterans Affairs. I will supply the appropriate answer as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps it could be done directly and not on the orders of the day, I suggest to the hon. member.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

SUGGESTED CONFERENCE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate): Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day are called I should like to ask the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration whether he or the government has given any consideration to calling a federal-provincial conference to discuss Indian affairs, and the transfer of certain welfare services for Indians to the provinces.

Hon. Richard A. Bell (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, if the matter is decided in the affirmative the announcement will be made in the house.

Mr. Pickersgill: I wonder whether I could ask a supplementary question. Has the minister or the government received any representations from any of the provincial governments asking for such a conference?

Mr. Bell (Carleton): Not to my recollection, Mr. Speaker.

FREIGHT RATES REDUCTION ACTAMENDMENTS EXTENDING APPLICATION AND
INCREASING EXPENDITURES

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to amend the Freight Rates Reduction Act to extend for not more than twelve months the period during which the revised rates under the said act shall be applicable and to increase the authorized expenditure under the act by an additional twenty million dollars.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Chown in the chair.

Mr. Balcer: This resolution seeks the approval of the house to introduce a bill to amend the Freight Rates Reduction Act for a further period not exceeding 12 months from April 30, 1962, and to provide necessary money for that purpose.

The original Freight Rates Reduction Act was passed in 1959. Its purpose was to make provision for a reduction in certain freight rates that were taking the 17 per cent freight rate increase which had been authorized to November, 1958. The sum of \$20,000,000 was provided to reimburse the companies for