

Inquiries of the Ministry

some newspaper headlines a general election could take place soon. Could the right hon. Prime Minister tell the house whether the government favours an early election?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should not believe all that he reads in the newspapers.

JUVENILE DELINQUENTS ACT**AMENDMENTS RESPECTING CONFINEMENT OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS**

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-133, to amend the Juvenile Delinquents Act.

He said: The Fauteux committee on judicial services recommended, among other things, that children or juveniles of the age of 16 years or less should not be confined in a penitentiary or other jail or lock-up where adults are also confined. This was brought forcibly to our attention when during a visit to St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary we met and spoke with a young lad of 15 years of age at that institution.

The purpose of this bill is to put into effect that particular recommendation of the Fauteux committee and, because the language of the act at the present time is not as precise as it could be, there are some changes proposed in the definition of "child" in order to make it clear that the purpose of the bill is to provide that no child of the age of 16 or under shall be confined in a penal institution where adults are also confined.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**POSSIBLE ACTION RESPECTING ONTARIO SUPREME COURT JUDGE**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): In the absence of the Minister of Justice I direct this question to the Prime Minister. It has to do with a matter which was raised some days ago regarding Mr. Justice Landreville, who was granted leave of absence during the period in which this case was before the courts.

I have seen in the press that on Monday he intends to resume his judicial duties. Has the government made a decision that no commission shall be appointed to look into this question; and does not the Prime Minister feel that in all the circumstances, the evidence having been what it was, if a decision has

[Mr. Choquette.]

not been made on the question of a commission, leave of absence should be continued until a determination is made as to what the government will do in this connection?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): My colleague the Minister of Justice, answering a similar question the other day, said he would be making a statement on this matter. I have nothing to add to that. When he has a statement ready it will be made to the house.

Mr. Diefenbaker: May I point out that the judge will resume his sittings on Monday, while this matter remains unsettled by the government; and the administration of justice naturally demands that whatever decision is made should be made before his lordship goes back on the bench.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**DELAY IN APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER RESPECTING RUN-THROUGHS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): Can the Prime Minister give an indication of the reasons for the delay in appointing a commissioner of inquiry into the railway matter which developed last week?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): The delay has certainly not been a long one, but I regret even a short delay. A commissioner was approached and we had hoped he would accept the appointment; he gave us some reason to believe it would be possible. We have now learned it will not be possible for him to do so, and we are making inquiries of another suitable commissioner. I hope we shall be able to make an announcement very shortly.

COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS**SOUTHERN RHODESIA—INQUIRY AS TO DEVELOPMENTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): In the light of press reports that the strong action taken by the Prime Minister of Great Britain with regard to the critical situation in Rhodesia has received strong support from the government of Canada and the governments of other commonwealth countries, could the Secretary of State for External Affairs give a report to the house on the latest developments in the policy of independence which is being pursued by the prime minister of Rhodesia?