

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

chambers of commerce and other organizations in the Kootenays urging deferment of final consideration of any treaty with respect to the development of the Columbia—

And so forth. That question appears on page 340 of *Hansard*.

I have checked with my office and ascertained that communications of the kind mentioned have been received. With respect to the possible presentation of a brief, it has always been the intention of the federal government and the provincial representatives concerned in these negotiations that public hearings shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the water rights legislation of British Columbia. When these hearings are convened, all interested parties will have a full opportunity of making known their views.

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** The organizations and persons directly concerned with sending the telegrams and other communications are aware of that, but they are very interested in having the opportunity of presenting the brief directly to the Prime Minister, having in mind that they might get a more sympathetic hearing. Would the Prime Minister consider that?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I appreciate the statement that the Prime Minister is regarded as giving a sympathetic hearing, and I hope that is always the case. Naturally I will give consideration to the request made, after consultation with the appropriate authorities.

## FINANCE

## AUTOMOBILES—STATEMENT ON REQUEST FOR DEFERMENT OF DUTY VALUE MODIFICATIONS

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday afternoon the hon. member for Vancouver South asked a question of my colleague the Minister of National Revenue in his absence in these words:

Will the minister inform the house in detail as to the possible effect on the retail prices of United Kingdom and European cars of the proposed modification in the discounts allowed in calculating fair value for duty? Will the minister consider withholding any action on this proposed change until the report of the royal commission investigating the automotive industry is received?

In the continued absence of my colleague, an absence that is due to a family bereavement, may I say that this whole question is under close examination. I wish to make it very clear that the government will not tolerate advantage being taken of the Canadian consumer.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

## USE OF IMPORTED CAR BY GOVERNOR OF BANK OF CANADA

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to intrude again but this is rather an important matter. I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance, and I regret giving him only short notice.

In view of the fact that Mr. James Coyne, governor of the Bank of Canada, has been travelling back and forth across Canada urging Canadians to produce more and to buy more goods made in Canada—

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Herridge:**—and in view of the fact that an article in this morning's *Globe and Mail* entitled "Checker Man" reports that Mr. Coyne a year ago imported a private car produced by—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Herridge:**—the Checker Motor Corporation of Kalamazoo, Michigan—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Herridge:**—does the minister consider that this reported contradiction between precept and practice will undermine Mr. Coyne's influence on the Canadian public?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I question whether the hon. member is raising a matter of urgent public importance when he seeks to inquire about the private affairs of public officials and draw conclusions therefrom.

**Mr. Herridge:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I submit that it is a matter of urgent public importance. My point was, does the minister consider that this will undermine Mr. Coyne's influence on the Canadian public?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member is basing a question on a subject matter which to my mind is not to be raised on the orders of the day, since it relates to the private affairs of a public official.

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## POLAND—STATEMENT ON DETENTION OF CANADIAN CITIZEN

On the orders of the day:

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, on November 28, as reported at page 247 of *Hansard*, the hon. member for Lambton West asked me a question regarding Mr. Tadeusz Koyer. When I spoke in response to that question I did so, as I said at the time, on the basis of recollection only. I have now had an opportunity to review the case and should like to make some additional comments.