

*Inquiries of the Ministry***ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE****NOVA SCOTIA—REPORTED ARREST OF
MEMBER OF FORCE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland): I should like to direct a question to the Solicitor General, of which I have given notice. Will the minister confirm the arrest in Nova Scotia today of an officer of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and advise the house of the circumstances leading to the arrest as well as what charges, if any, are being laid?

Mr. Speaker: I doubt very much if the question, without more explanation, can be accepted at this time. Even if the hon. member gave notice of the question I do not think that makes it necessarily acceptable to the Chair. I suggest the hon. member place it on the order paper.

Mr. Coates: This is a serious matter, and I believe the Solicitor General is prepared to answer it. I think it would be helpful if he did answer it.

Mr. Speaker: Of course I can only judge by what is in the question itself. The hon. member says it is very urgent, and I will accept his word for it and allow the minister to reply.

Hon. L. T. Pennell (Solicitor General): I thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his intention to ask this question. I can only say that an investigation is proceeding. At the time I came into the chamber I was informed no charges had been laid. Perhaps I ought not to go beyond that statement at this point.

Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Pictou): May I ask a supplementary question. Can the minister advise whether this arrest is related to the three bank holdups in the county of Pictou within the last nine months?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**VIET NAM—ACTIVITIES OF CANADIAN
AID COMMITTEE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the fact that it is firmly established now that a Canadian organization formed to aid civilians in Viet Nam is directing its aid entirely to North Viet

[**Mr. Speaker.**]

Nam, what is the government attitude toward this organization and its efforts?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I do not believe I can add anything to what I said in answer to a somewhat similar question posed the other day by the Leader of the Opposition.

FINANCE**ALBERTA—PROPOSED REFUND OF ESTATE TAX**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance a question. In view of the fact that the premier of Alberta has now indicated, either in a resolution or by a public announcement, that he will refund to the people of Alberta 75 per cent of the estate tax, is there any agreement between this government and the Alberta government to refund the other 25 per cent, or is a deal being worked out in that regard?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the answer is no.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**REQUEST FOR ANSWER TO QUESTION
ON ORDER PAPER**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Prince Edward-Lennox): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. When can I expect an answer to starred question No. 726 which has to do with penitentiary security and has remained on the order paper unanswered since February 18?

Hon. L. T. Pennell (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I will give the hon. member's inquiry immediate attention.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Hon. R. A. Bell (Carleton): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister whether he has had the opportunity to review the speech made last evening by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration to the Ottawa Board of Trade and, if so, whether the statements and threats therein contained represent government policy.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Greenwood.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): Would the Prime Minister answer the question?