

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

## EXTENSION OF JUNE MEETINGS TO DISCUSS UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION—POSITION OF PROVINCES

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** I have a supplementary question for the Acting Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. Has the government been in touch with the provincial premiers, as the Prime Minister said it would, to find out if they would be willing to spend one, two or more extra days at the conference to discuss questions of the economy, in particular unemployment and inflation? If so what has been the response so far?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have not had an opportunity to discuss this question yet. I know that our officials have been discussing the agenda with provincial officials and particularly the item of constitutional reform. I should like to reiterate what the Prime Minister said, that whether or not time is set aside for discussion of these other important matters, first priority should be given to constitutional reform.

**Mr. Hees:** Will the Acting Prime Minister assure the House that he will inquire from the provincial premiers whether they are willing to extend the time to include this most important matter, and when he has done so will he immediately report back to the House the results of such inquiries?

## OBJECTIONS BY PROVINCES TO VETO POWER AND RIGHT TO AMEND CONSTITUTION—PRIOR CONSULTATIONS

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** As a supplementary question I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister if he has had to date, prior to the conference commencing, any objections from the province of Alberta or any other Prairie province to the veto power and the right regarding amendments to the constitution?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that if we are going to make progress at these constitutional discussions it would be better if these matters could be discussed at the conference and not be the subject of offhand remarks by anyone.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Can the Acting Prime Minister advise the House whether he or any other member of the government has had prior consultations with the premiers so that their opinions and objections are known prior to the commencement of the conference?

**Mr. Sharp:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. Preparations are now going on for the conference and federal authorities have visited the provinces to discuss in advance questions that will be raised at the conference.

## PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OBJECTIONS TO ATTENDANCE OF LEADERS OF OPPOSITION PARTIES AS OBSERVERS

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister whether any provincial government has objected to a leader of an opposition party attending these sessions as an observer?

[Mr. Sharp.]

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know the answer to that question.

## ALTERNATIVE DATE IN EVENT OF POSSIBLE PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS

**Mr. John Burton (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister if the government has had any discussions with the provinces concerning an alternative date for the conference in the event that one or more of the provinces calls a provincial election between now and June 4?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker. The federal government is proceeding to prepare for the date that has been agreed upon.

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## PENITENTIARIES

## KINGSTON RIOT—ALLEGED BEATINGS AT MILLHAVEN—PUBLICATION OF INQUIRY REPORT—REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION OF MINISTER'S ACTIONS

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Solicitor General arising out of the inquiry into the Kingston penitentiary riot and the alleged beating of prisoners who were moved to Millhaven. Since the inquiry began yesterday and is to be held behind closed doors and since Members of Parliament and the public are interested in knowing the outcome of this inquiry, is the minister now prepared to agree to make public the report of that inquiry when it is placed in his hands?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, after receiving the report and considering it, I will surely make a statement. The recommendations made by the committee should be drawn to the attention of the people. As for the contents of the report, I have read today the statement of the chairman of the inquiry committee to the effect that some evidence would perhaps not be given except under the seal of secrecy. In my opinion, the judgment is valid and if it applies to the chairman of the committee it should also apply to me.

[English]

**Mr. Douglas:** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the statement of Professor Desmond Morton, who was a member of the five-man citizens' committee that acted as a go-between during the Kingston riot, to the effect that "I put the blame on Goyer", and in view of his contention that the refusal of the Solicitor General to guarantee the prisoners that they would not be mistreated was the prime cause of the sad ending to this riot, would the government be prepared to refer this entire matter to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, since the inquiry headed by John Swackhammer does not have terms of reference that would call in question the competency of the minister himself?