

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

concerning a reported protest from the government of North Viet Nam, has the Prime Minister as yet had an opportunity to consult with the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and has the government of North Viet Nam in fact sent a protest to the government of Canada concerning Canada's alleged non-neutral behaviour as a member of the international control commission.

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker.

**HOUSING****ATTENDANCE OF OPPOSITION MEMBERS AND AGENDA FOR CONFERENCE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Reid Scott (Danforth):** Mr. Speaker, I have a very non-controversial question to pose to the Minister of Labour in his capacity as the minister who, when he isn't the Minister of Labour, devotes his spare time—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Scott (Danforth):** — to Canada's outstanding social problem, namely the housing crisis—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Scott (Danforth):** Mr. Speaker, this can't go on.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is unhappy with the reaction, but I must say he does not help his own cause very much.

**Mr. Scott (Danforth):** Mr. Speaker, I spent all week end thinking of a nice, non-controversial way in which to pose this question.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member has not been very successful.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Scott (Danforth):** Well, I will try again. In any event it is a question to our part time minister of housing—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Scott (Danforth):** Can the minister now give an answer to the very reasonable requests that we have been making for four or five weeks? Can he now inform the house as to the agenda for the forthcoming housing conference, and has he reached—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

[Mr. Nesbitt.]

**Mr. Scott (Danforth):** Can we have no order on the government side? In particular, has the minister reached any decision on his agreement to consider the possibility of having our municipalities represented, and also having representatives from the opposition parties?

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, the first part of the question has been answered almost every day of late, or nearly two or three times a week and, as late as yesterday, I believe, to the effect that the agenda has not yet been settled and I have said that when it has been settled it will be announced. It also has been stated that it is not expected to be settled before at least a couple of weeks. That part of the question was answered yesterday.

The second part of the question, as to whether the municipalities would take part in this conference, also has been dealt with. The Prime Minister in his letter to the provincial premiers suggested that they might bring along some advisers. The municipalities, to use a colloquialism, are creatures of the provinces. The door is open for them to make suggestions at that time.

In respect of the last point, I should like to say that that matter is still under advisement.

**Mr. J. R. Keays (Gaspé):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister been in touch with the house leader or the chairman of the committee on housing, urban development and public works to determine whether this committee should be convened in order to hear the complaints from the cities and towns as well as from the national associations in Canada?

**Mr. Nicholson:** Mr. Speaker, when this question was asked on an earlier occasion I stated that the committee does exist, and said that what it does is the responsibility of the committee.

**Mr. Keays:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the chairman of the committee, the hon. member for Rivière-du-Loup-Témiscouata. Has any action been taken toward convening the committee?

[Translation]

**Mr. Rosaire Gendron (Rivière-du-Loup-Témiscouata):** Mr. Speaker, we will be happy to hold a meeting of the committee as soon as the house refers to it some matters for consideration.