

Inquiries of the Ministry

2. The population of the electoral districts, totals only, for 1961, 1956 and 1951 censuses, a four page bulletin, will be released about March 20.

3. The population of the electoral districts and census subdivisions totals for 1961 and 1956 will be released about June 5.

It should be noted that releases on other aspects of the 1961 census will become available while work is proceeding on bulletin No. 3. These are not related to the problems of redistribution of the House of Commons.

These 1961 census results will be four weeks later than in 1952 due to the fact that we are dealing with a considerable increase in our population, nearly 30 per cent, and have carried out more extensive checking operations to ensure greater accuracy and as complete a count as possible. Hon. members should note that the last redistribution bill was first introduced on March 10, 1952 but had to be withdrawn and a new bill introduced on June 27, due to premature action in presentation of the final figures. It has been decided to avoid any chance of error this time by the more extensive checking operations to which I have referred.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate): Mr. Speaker, in the light of the answer given by the Minister of Trade and Commerce may I put a question to the Prime Minister, and ask whether he is in a position to give the house an assurance that the constitutional requirement in regard to a readjustment of the seats in the House of Commons will be carried out before another general election is held.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, that matter will receive attention in due course. However, it strikes me as strange that those who have been calling every day for an election are now speaking about constitutional difficulties.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of personal privilege.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Pickersgill: I might point out that I asked the question and I am not "those"; I am singular.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Pickersgill: Also may I point out that I have personally taken no part in the election speculation. I should like to put a supplementary question to the Prime Minister and ask the hon. gentleman whether he recalls that a former government in the war years felt it necessary to get a constitutional amendment to postpone a redistribution.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member's question is an argumentative one and would lead to a debate.

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether the Prime Minister could indicate the order of priority as between the redistribution bill that will follow the publication of these figures and the intimation in the speech from the throne that redistribution commission will be established?

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has come to the heart of the matter. He did not approach it in the singular manner of the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillin-gate. As a matter of fact, it will require legislation on the part of parliament as soon as it can be brought in to provide for the setting up of a commission to make the study that was forecast in the speech from the throne.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

SONS OF FREEDOM—INQUIRY AS TO
REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. J. Broome (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Has the minister any further information to give to the house with regard to his recent meeting with Hon. Robert Bonner, attorney general of British Columbia, apart from what has already appeared in statements by Mr. Bonner?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): No, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Bonner and I agreed that the details of our discussions would be confidential for the time being. We both made general statements as to the nature of the discussions which concerned the Doukhobor problem in British Columbia and a particular problem arising out of the application of the succession duty act.

ORGANIZED CRIME—STATEMENTS BY R.C.M.P.
COMMISSIONER AND MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. D. Morton (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. Did the commissioner of the R.C.M.P. state, as reported in a recent press article, that the Mafia is in control of organized crime in one or more Canadian cities?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): Commissioner Harvison has assured me that at no time did he state that the Mafia or any other organization controlled big crime in any Canadian city.