

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, September 8, 1966

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### LAOS—TABLING OF REPORT ON ATTACK BY NORTH VIET NAM

**Mr. D. S. Macdonald (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the Department of External Affairs has recently received a report of an investigation by the international commission for supervision and control in Laos of an attack on Dong Hene by North Vietnamese troops. For the convenience and interest of hon. members I would like to table two copies of this report.

**Mr. Speaker:** Has the Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs leave of the house to table this report?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

#### INQUIRY AS TO CONSIDERATION OF MEDICARE AND OLD AGE PENSIONS

On the orders of the day:

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Acting Prime Minister whether last night's broadcast interview of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp) was an indication on the part of the government that it does not intend to proceed with medicare.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I did not hear last night's speech of my colleague. I am sure it was a notable performance, as one would expect from him.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** "Notorious" would be a better word.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** The government does intend to proceed with the medicare bill this session.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Will the Acting Prime Minister now tell the house, with his usual lucidity and careful choice of words, whether the government of Canada, in view of the fact that only a few provinces have signified

their intention of going into the plan dictated by the federal government, now intends not to proceed with the medicare plan? If this is not the case, can the Acting Prime Minister tell us what was the significance of the words of the Minister of Finance last night?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I just indicated, Mr. Speaker, that we were going to continue with the plan.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Acting Prime Minister whether he is now in a position to answer the question I put to him yesterday as to when we will be given the statement indicating the date on which we will proceed with the old age pension legislation and with medicare.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** As my hon. friend knows, the government house leader will discuss this matter with the other house leaders, all distinguished men including my hon. friend. I am not saying that facetiously; I mean it, because my hon. friend is a distinguished member of this house. After these gentlemen have had their conference we will be in a better position to give a more specific response to this worthy question.

**Mr. Knowles:** If I cannot get a better answer than that from the Acting Prime Minister I will have to put my question tonight at ten o'clock.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** May I simply say, in answer to my hon. friend's question, that since yesterday when the hon. member asked me for a statement on priorities I have had the chance to read what the Prime Minister said on September 1. In answer to a question by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre he said that as soon as we completed consideration of the railway legislation it was his intention to make a statement in the house about the priority attached to other pieces of legislation.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Then we will get that today.

**Mr. Knowles:** Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.