

Inquiries of the Ministry

ceremonial signing of the Columbia river treaty, which took place in the railway committee room?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I made some inquiries, and I can find no confirmation for the alleged statement.

PUBLIC WORKS**OTTAWA—LEASE OF SPACE BY DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. E. Pascoe (Moose Jaw-Lake Centre): I wish to address a question to the Minister of Industry. On March 4, in answer to my question, the minister's parliamentary secretary stated that the Department of Industry had leased the entire 11 storey Macdonald building on Slater street in Ottawa, with the exception of the ground floor, at a rental of \$384,000 a year, with 119 private offices, 59 shared offices and 29 general offices. Can the minister confirm the report that, because of additional personnel, the department is now taking over space in another building?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Perhaps I should—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Unless we can clean this matter up very quickly, it is a typical question for the order paper.

Mr. Drury: I think I can. There are a couple of points. First, the Minister of Industry has no parliamentary secretary. Second, the Department of Industry does not lease space in Ottawa; this is the responsibility of the Department of Public Works. Third, the Department of Industry is not expanding its premises or personnel.

HOUSING**OTTAWA—USE OF FORMER GIRLS' RESIDENCE BY RETIRED CIVIL SERVANTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. A. McBain (Elgin): My question concerns possibly two departments, the Department of Public Works and the Postmaster General. In view of the absence of the Minister of Public Works perhaps the Postmaster General can consult with his colleagues. Has the Postmaster General, in his capacity as minister responsible for housing, received requests from organizations or individuals suggesting that Laurentian terrace on Sussex street, the former girls' residence, be maintained as a residence for retired civil servants who only have small pensions as income?

[Mr. Bigg.]

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. member put this question on the order paper?

Mr. McBain: Mr. Speaker, with all deference, I believe this building is slated for demolition soon and I should like to receive a reply.

Mr. Speaker: Unless demolition is starting this afternoon, I do not see the urgency.

VANCOUVER—POSSIBLE EVICTIONS FROM VETERANS HOUSING PROJECT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Arnold Webster (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General. Has any progress been made in resolving the differences between C.M.H.C. and the group of veterans in the Vancouver Fraserview project who are refusing to pay the increased rentals demanded by the government?

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, this is rather a difficult question to answer on orders of the day. I can say, however, that the deadline contained in the notices to the tenants does not expire until midnight Saturday night, and according to the last report that I got 50 of the tenants have not yet paid the increased rent. If they do not pay it, unless hardship can be established proceedings will be taken in an orderly way to enforce the eviction notices.

I believe not more than two cases of hardship were brought to the attention of C.M.H.C. and both these have been dealt with to the satisfaction of the persons concerned. I might add that one person, the lady whose name was mentioned during debate or in the course of a question period in this chamber, and who was referred to in the newspapers, said she had never authorized the use of her name, that she always had received good treatment and was quite happy.

Until midnight Saturday night I can make no other answer than that we are proceeding along the lines we have indicated more than once during the last few weeks would be followed.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**INQUIRY AS TO BOARD OF REVIEW ON "HATE" LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): I should like to ask the Postmaster General a question relating to the distribution of hate literature. Is the minister in a position to announce the composition of the board of review to which