

DEATH OF PIEGAN INDIAN CHILD

Motion No. 36—Mr. Dinsdale:

That an humble address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this house a copy of the recommendations by the jury established to investigate the death of 14 month old Ramona Mae Crow Shoe on the Piegan Indian reserve, and all communications with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development arising therefrom.

Motion agreed to.

CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

PROPOSED CHANGE IN DESIGNATION OF FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister and ask whether, in view of the apparent broadening of the proposed federal-provincial conference originally called to discuss a bill of rights, he would in fact characterize it as a full scale conference on the constitution rather than a conference on a bill of rights?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not mind considering the changing of the name of the conference. It is true that certain very important questions have been added to the agenda. However, this would require consultation with the premiers of the provinces. I will be glad to initiate that consultation.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Because of the marked success of the confederation of tomorrow conference and the fact it was held in public, would the Prime Minister consider holding the coming federal-provincial conference "on camera", as prime minister Johnson put it, and not in camera?

Mr. Pearson: I think I said, Mr. Speaker, that the maximum amount of publicity should be given to a conference of this kind but, as the chairman of the conference pointed out, it was a conference which was not negotiating or discussing any proposals but at which an exchange of views took place. It therefore particularly lent itself to maximum publicity. I think that kind of conference should be held in public.

27053—322½

Inquiries of the Ministry

NOVA SCOTIA

FEDERAL FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF STEEL MILL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that legislation is now before the Nova Scotia legislature to validate an agreement between the government of that province and Dosco for the acquisition of the Sydney steel mill, and in view of the awesome financial obligations which will be involved, have there been any discussions between the government of Canada and the government of Nova Scotia in which the federal government was asked to assume some of the financial responsibility for keeping the steel plant open beyond April 1968?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, there has been no discussion as yet on that particular point. I expect to hear from the premier of Nova Scotia as soon as the legislature has completed its discussion of this matter, and I have indicated to him I will be glad to see him at that time.

Mr. Douglas: I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Has the government of Nova Scotia asked for any financial assistance prior to introducing this legislation?

Mr. Pearson: The government has asked to meet me and representatives of the federal government to discuss the whole situation as soon as the legislature has completed its work in Halifax.

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REPORTED TRIPS TO CUBA BY QUEBEC SEPARATISTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Last Monday I put a question to the minister on certain separatists who travel from Quebec to Cuba and the minister answered at that time that he would find out and advise me in a day or two on these comings and goings. Is the minister in a position to say something on this today?