

that a special committee be set up to investigate the matter, to find solutions and report to the minister as soon as possible?

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the short answer is, no. We have a very effective committee of this house, as demonstrated by the work that it has done during this session of parliament in dealing with matters relating to manpower and labour. Only under very special circumstances ought such a matter be referred to a standing committee, and in this instance I question whether it is necessary at all to refer the matter to a committee.

Earlier this session I reported considerable improvement in our efforts to arrange for simultaneous publication of the English and French editions of the *Labour Gazette*. I then expressed the hope that by the end of the year simultaneous editions might be possible. That that could not be achieved will be evident, for two reasons: In the first place the chief of the section was taken ill when trying to meet the difficult objective he himself had set. He was away from work for several weeks but is now back, in good health, and progress is being made toward the desired objective. There is another reason. For several months the department has been pressing the bureau of classification for additional appointments to the staff.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nicholson: Those have not yet been made.

Mr. Speaker: As we are limited to a 30 minute question period perhaps the minister might use the shorter answer.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AMENDMENTS TO CRIMINAL CODE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. S. J. Enns (Portage-Neepawa): My question is addressed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Will he implement the recommendations of the standing committee on health and welfare, involving certain amendments to the Criminal Code. I would add that no fiscal expenditure is involved in implementing this recommendation.

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the recommendations of the committee are under consideration at the present time.

Inquiries of the Ministry

EDUCATION

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David MacDonald (Prince): Mr. Speaker, on December 2 last the hon. member for Danforth (Mr. Scott) addressed a question to the Acting Prime Minister about the student scholarship program. In his answer the Acting Prime Minister, who is again today the Acting Prime Minister, said he would refer the matter to the Minister of Finance. Could the Minister of Finance inform the house when we might expect action by the government on the continuously delayed student scholarship program?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, when a decision is made it will be announced.

Mr. Knowles: What year?

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES—ALLEGED DELAY IN DEALING WITH CARROTHERS REPORT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): I have a question to address to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. I wonder if the minister would say whether he plans making an early statement about the reported criticisms of his department made by the former commissioner of the Northwest Territories with respect to the alleged lack of decision by the department in dealing with the Carrothers report. Will he, in his reply, include a statement about the problems of the Northwest Territories?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity last evening of speaking with Mr. Sivertz. During the conversation I complimented him on concluding a long term of good service to the people of Canada. I also had the opportunity of telling him that I was disturbed and concerned over the statements he had made. After our discussion last night he told me he was greatly reassured and intended writing to the members of the council to that effect.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD

DECISION AS TO CREATION OF NATIONAL HOLIDAY

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): My question is addressed to the Secretary of State