

Inquiries of the Ministry

PUBLIC SERVICE

REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF NORTHERN ALLOWANCE PAYMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gene Rhéaume (Northwest Territories):

Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the President of the Privy Council. Is he in a position to answer the question directed by the hon. member for Churchill to the Minister of Finance on September 25, which asked if the President of the Privy Council would consider postponing the implementation of drastic cuts in northern allowances to federal employees working in northern parts of Canada?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, an order was issued a few weeks ago graduating the impact of the change in the rate of allowances. The further point raised by the hon. member for Churchill had to do with time differences in implementing certain changes by various departments. The practice is that the treasury board makes an order which fixes the maximum allowance that may be granted, and the application of that order is left to the different departments, so it is possible for a difference to arise between departments as to applicability at any given time.

Mr. Rhéaume: As a supplementary question, would the President of the Privy Council give consideration to hearing representations on this important matter from the staff associations representing federal government employees in various parts of the north?

Mr. McIlraith: I do not know whether there would be any useful purpose served by that. They have already made their representations in the ordinary way, but if further representations are to be made, I will certainly be glad to have them.

CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

DISCUSSION WITH QUEBEC MINISTER RESPECTING REPATRIATION

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Guy Marcoux (Quebec-Montmorency): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Minister of Justice a question.

Did the minister, or any minister of the crown, meet over the week end the Quebec minister of education, Hon. Paul Gérin-Lajoie, to discuss the repatriation of the Canadian constitution?

government that they will be considered, at a time when they can make some recommendations to change legislation before decisions are finally reached? It was on this point that I was directing my question yesterday.

Mr. McIlraith: I am thoroughly familiar with the understandings with the various provincial governments. I do not accept that they are in precisely the same form as the hon. member puts them forward, but the assurance was given the provinces that they would have an opportunity to present their points of view at the committee stage of the bill.

POWER

ONTARIO—LOCATION OF PROPOSED NUCLEAR PLANT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Industry and ask him whether Atomic Energy of Canada Limited has yet reached a decision on the exact location in southern Ontario of the proposed new nuclear power plant.

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. gentleman is aware that primary responsibility for selecting the site rests not with Atomic Energy of Canada Limited but with the Ontario hydroelectric power commission. Further, the selection by the Ontario hydroelectric power commission is subject to approval by the atomic energy board of Canada, and to my knowledge the formal submission to the atomic energy control board has not yet been made by the Ontario hydroelectric power commission.

CANADIAN FLAG

INQUIRY AS TO CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Can the minister inform the house whether the government is ready to recognize the right of the provinces to be consulted on the flag issue, by placing the matter before the provincial attorneys general for their opinion?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question is very important, but it does seem to me it is one for the order paper.