

*Inquiries of the Ministry***INDIAN AFFAIRS**READINESS OF PROVINCES TO ATTEND
CONFERENCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. In relation to the planned federal-provincial conference on Indian affairs, can the minister inform the house which provinces have signified that they are prepared to meet now and which provinces have indicated that they will need more time to consider this matter?

Hon. René Tremblay (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): I will take this question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

CANADIAN FLAGREQUEST FOR TABLING OF TELEGRAM
FROM PREMIER SMALLWOOD

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I refer the Prime Minister to the answer he gave me on June 2 relative to the telegrams passing between Premier Smallwood of Newfoundland and the Prime Minister with regard to the two flags, or to one of those flags. At the page in question I asked for the production of this telegram, which was tabled yesterday. I also used these words, as reported at page 3833 of *Hansard*:

Can we also have the telegram from Mr. Smallwood so that we can resolve this apparent dispute or uncertainty as between the views of the Prime Minister and the premier of Newfoundland?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to ask Premier Smallwood for permission to table his telegram, and I would certainly be very glad to table my own.

When I asked for the production yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister said there had been no correspondence. I would ask him what he meant the day before yesterday when he stated that he would find out whether the telegram from Premier Smallwood could be tabled and his consent secured thereto.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, when I answered the question to which my right hon. friend has referred I was of the impression that Mr. Smallwood had made the request by telegram for information as to the procedure to be followed if and when the resolution were adopted. When I got back to my office I found that

[Mr. Pearson.]

the request had been made by long distance telephone. I am very sorry if I have misled my right hon. friend and the house, but it was a telephone call, not a telegram. The telephone call was asking for information, and when I sent back the telegram "In reply to your request" I was referring to that telephone call.

REPORTED THREATS TO SUPPORTERS OF RED ENSIGN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Has the Prime Minister been informed that the life of the organizer of the red ensign march on parliament hill was threatened; and further, that the lives of the members of her family were included in the threat; and still further, that only one retail outlet in downtown Ottawa was willing to sell the red ensign, the remainder apparently being in fear of reprisals—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Coates: It is very kind of hon. gentlemen opposite to laugh when the lives of individual Canadians are being threatened.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Has the hon. member finished his question?

Mr. Coates: No, I have not finished yet, Mr. Speaker—and of the proprietor of that establishment having his life threatened for selling the red ensign?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have no such information. If the report is accurate I know how they must feel, because I have been getting some threats myself.

Mr. Coates: Mr. Speaker, it is all very well for the Prime Minister to slough off threats that are being made against the lives of Canadians because they are interested in flying the flag that is designated as Canada's flag.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm.

Mr. Coates: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Will the Prime Minister assure the house that every possible step will be taken to assure that threats of this type will not be made against any Canadian citizen, and will he inform the house just what has taken place with regard to these threats made by hoodlums, no doubt?