

Inquiries of the Ministry

REJECTION OF CHARTER BY QUEBEC—PRIORITY OF FURTHER DISCUSSIONS OVER OTHER PROBLEMS

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Acting Prime Minister. The Acting Prime Minister spoke of further discussions and clarifications. Will these discussions and clarifications be carried on before or after dealing with the many other problems that the Prime Minister mentioned must be taken care of when he spoke of the constitutional question as being a "can of worms"?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as I said, I am sure that if the Prime Minister of Quebec wants further clarification of the terms of the charter, we should respond positively.

Mr. MacInnis: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Chair will recognize the hon. member but I would bring to the attention of the House that there are now five or six members with supplementaries and it may be that the whole question period will be devoted to this particular subject. However, that is a decision for hon. members themselves. The hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond.

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, I go back to my original question and I have to do so by way of supplementary. What priority will the Acting Prime Minister give to the constitutional question, in view of the remarks made this morning at the press conference held by the Prime Minister at which he referred to the many other serious problems that the government had to take care of?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. gentleman will agree with the Prime Minister that there are many questions of urgent importance and that we should give attention to all of them.

REJECTION OF CHARTER BY QUEBEC—EXPIRY OF ESTABLISHED PROGRAMS (INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS) ACT IN 1972—NEGOTIATIONS WITH PROVINCES

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the issue at the moment, with respect to the constitution, seems to be over the question of social security measures, and in view of the fact that this is also what is involved in the Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act which expires one year from now, can the Acting Prime Minister say whether negotiations are under way with regard to the provisions of that act?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Not yet, Mr. Speaker.

PROPOSED CHARTER—EXTENSION OF DATE FOR ACCEPTANCE

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister a supplementary [Mr. Sharp.]

question. Does the termination date of June 28 still stand or will it be extended?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, the time stands as of the 28th.

ALLEGED SUGGESTION AT CONFERENCE THAT DISCUSSIONS BE SUSPENDED IF CHARTER VETOED

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. The Prime Minister's closing and, some now say, unfortunate remarks at Victoria have generated considerable speculation that some of the provinces did suggest that should there be a veto further constitutional discussions should be put aside. Was this position formally put and recorded at the Victoria meeting?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the only decisions, I believe, that were formally agreed to were those that are contained in the recommended charter and in the communiqué that was issued at the time. It was then agreed that, after a period of three years, a decision should be made on these proposals by June 28 by the Prime Ministers once they had consulted their respective governments.

REJECTION OF CHARTER BY QUEBEC—POSITION RESPECTING AMENDMENT

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. In view of the fact that the Acting Prime Minister has admitted—and of course we all agree—that the agreement has been vetoed, does this not put us in the position, and is it not the policy of the government, that the question of changing the constitution remains, and will remain until there is agreement to do otherwise, with the imperial Parliament?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, until we bring the British North America Act back home, that is obviously the case.

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YOUTH

STUDY OF CULTURE BY DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare whether his department is conducting a study called Youth Cultural Study, 1971, under which 200 young people have been asked secretly to collect highly personal information about other young people.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, my department is conducting such a youth cultural study. The rest of the remarks of the hon. member are incorrect, as is the article on which he has founded his question. There is nothing secret about what they are doing.