

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

architects, not only in the province of Quebec but in the whole dominion. He is known by reputation even outside our boundaries. Mr. Cormier of Montreal drew the plans for the supreme court building, and he was also the architect for the Montreal university buildings. I understand he has just completed the plans for two large buildings in Toronto. He is so well known that when the United Nations decided to put up their building in New York he was appointed one of the consultant architects.

The contractor is Concrete Construction Limited of Montreal. The first instance that I recall when that company did work in this vicinity was in 1930 when they constructed the Confederation building on Wellington street. They also erected the buildings of the Ste. Anne de Bellevue hospital. They are a well-known and reputable firm in this country, especially in connection with concrete work.

The firm that tested all the materials going into the construction of this building was the Canadian Inspection and Testing Company Limited of Montreal. I am told that the accident could not have been caused by faulty design or faulty materials. I am sure that the results of the coroner's inquiry will be to establish full responsibility and later on I may make another report to the house.

**Mr. Drew:** I appreciate the information given by the minister, who naturally is greatly concerned even outside the duties of his department. But I would point out that my question was prompted by difficulty which had been encountered in obtaining information. I can understand that now, in the light of the circumstances to which he has referred in connection with the activities of the coroner. May I urge that, quite independently of any finding by the coroner, at least a public statement be given to this house so that we may be reassured that all difficulties will be overcome before the construction of this building is proceeded with.

**Mr. Fournier (Hull):** That will be a pleasure. I will follow this up and give all the information the hon. gentleman wishes. I should like to place on the record one clause in the contract for the construction of this building. Clause 23 reads:

The contractor, his agents and all workmen and persons employed by him or under his control, shall use due care that no person nor property is injured and that no rights are infringed in the prosecution of the work, and the contractor shall be solely responsible for all damages, by whomsoever claimable, in respect of any injury to persons or to lands, buildings, structures, fences,—

[Mr. Fournier (Hull).]

The clause concludes with the following words:

—and the contractor shall indemnify and save harmless His Majesty from and against all claims and demands, loss, costs, damages, actions, suits or other proceedings by whomsoever made, brought or prosecuted in any manner based upon, occasioned by, or attributable to any such damage, injury or infringement.

**HEALTH INSURANCE****QUESTION AS TO SETTING UP OF  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare? Will the special parliamentary committee on health insurance, which the minister on June 21 last said he hoped to set up at this session, be established at an early date?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** My hon. friend did not give me the usual notice, and possibly on that account my answer will not be as complete as it otherwise would be.

**Mr. Knowles:** The minister has had eight months to consider it.

**Mr. Martin:** I did say, as my hon. friend said in part, that the government would give consideration to the setting up of such a committee. The hon. member did not use those words when he put his question to me. The government has given careful consideration to this matter and has come to the conclusion not to set up such a committee at this time.

I may say in passing that the health survey reports which have been undertaken by the ten provinces at federal expense have not all been filed with the government. Four provinces have yet to file their reports. There has not been a complete assessment at all the senior levels of government of any of those reports. I might inform my hon. friend also that the sickness survey to which I made some reference on the same occasion likewise is not yet completed.

**WHEAT****INQUIRY AS TO DRYING FACILITIES FOR DAMP  
AND TOUGH WHEAT**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct to the Minister of Trade and Commerce a question of which he has not had notice? What is being done to provide further drying facilities for damp and tough wheat on the prairies and to ensure