

Inquiries of the Ministry

ister of Justice whether in the course of an interview on the C.B.C. yesterday, dealing in particular with the formula for the amendment of the constitution, he was asked a question to this effect: "Does this formula mean that the door is now open for an associate state?" And did he reply thereto in approximately these words: "You might put it that way"?

[Translation]

Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice): The answer is no, Mr. Speaker.

[Text]

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. I wonder whether, in the course of the relaxed and co-operative atmosphere which apparently prevailed in his discussions with the attorneys general, he discussed with them his views as to the necessity of finding a wider area if he is going to properly enforce the law with regard to restrictive trade practices; and did he ask any of the provincial attorneys general whether they were prepared to surrender any of their jurisdiction so he could secure this wider jurisdiction that he indicated he needs?

Mr. Favreau: Mr. Speaker, the matter of the restrictive trade practices commission was not, of course, on the agenda at the discussion and was not part of the discussion. As to whether any part of the formula, once it has been enacted, will be of some use in this direction will be left to the interpreters of the formula.

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Royal): A supplementary question. What consideration was given by the premiers and the attorneys general to the proposal for the entrenchment of the bill of rights in the new constitution?

Mr. Favreau: Mr. Speaker, in all fairness to the participants in the conference—I am not speaking just for myself when I ask for fairness—I think it would be a good thing for all members concerned to wait until the report on the deliberations and discussions has been published and circulated, because certainly most of the answers to these very interesting questions will be given in the text.

Mr. Fairweather: When will that be?

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): A supplementary question. I wonder if the minister would advise the house whether the formula which has been agreed upon by the minister and the provinces will contain provisions which

will permit the acquisition of associate state status by Quebec or any other province or provinces in Canada.

[Translation]

Mr. Favreau: Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that the formula has nothing to do with the implications of the question just asked, and I think the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) can draw his own conclusions by reading the proposed formula, without having to ask my opinion on this matter.

[Text]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister of Justice, who was somewhat more generous in the information he gave in the course of this interview yesterday than he is to the House of Commons today, if he was not asked whether the formula would permit of an associate state in Canada. I simply ask him whether he was asked that question.

[Translation]

Mr. Favreau: Mr. Speaker, if I am not mistaken that question was asked, even though I cannot remember exactly in what terms. Again, in this case I think the actual wording should be given in reply to the Leader of the Opposition.

[Text]

Mr. Diefenbaker: I am glad the minister suggests that. Now I would ask the Secretary of State whether he will secure from the C.B.C. a copy of the interview which was given yesterday by the Minister of Justice on the program "Aujourd'hui" and have it tabled in the house. We have the co-operation of the minister now.

Hon. Maurice Lamontagne (Secretary of State): I will see if I can satisfy the right hon. gentleman, Mr. Speaker.

TRADE

FAILURE TO INCLUDE FISHERIES REPRESENTATIVE IN MISSION TO CARIBBEAN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In view of the importance of the fishing industry to the economy of Nova Scotia and the Atlantic provinces generally, and the necessity in view of foreign competition to constantly expand our markets, will the minister inform the house why a representative of the fresh and salt fishing industry was not included in the trade mission sponsored by