

[Translation]

## FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGENDA

**Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister.

I wish to ask him whether the agenda for the constitutional conference to be held in June has been formally announced and whether the government intends to make it public in the near future.

[English]

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I think the general nature of the subjects that will be discussed at the conference is pretty well known as a result of the preparations that were made at the last meeting. When the Prime Minister returns I will ask him when the agreed agenda can be published.

[Translation]

**Mr. Valade:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister.

Could he tell us whether the discussion will deal only with the amendment or also with the sharing of taxing powers between the provincial and federal governments?

[English]

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, the agenda for such meetings is, of course, a matter of agreement between the federal government and the provinces. I cannot give a precise answer to the question, but I do know that the principal subject of discussion will be the continuation of the discussion that took place a few months ago.

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## PENITENTIARIES

## CENSORING OF INMATES' LETTERS CONTAINING CRITICISMS

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I might direct a question to the Solicitor General. Inasmuch as it seems to be general practice and policy within the penitentiaries service not to permit inmates to write letters of criticism either of the institution or its administration, and that such letters are returned to the inmates for rephrasing, would the minister see to it that this imposition of censorship is removed so that inmates may freely communicate their criticisms to people, especially to Members of Parliament?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, I have already received a similar suggestion during consideration of departmental estimates by the standing committee and I answered that we would study it. Today I give the same answer. I do not know enough about it to give a specific answer, but I am rather inclined to think that the inmates should be allowed to communicate as freely as possible with the members.

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## Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

## GOVERNMENT POLICY RESPECTING SURVEILLANCE OF UNIVERSITIES

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I also have a question for the Solicitor General which relates to surveillance of university campuses. Has the government taken a decision to change the policy enunciated by the Right Hon. Lester Pearson in 1963 about police surveillance of universities in this country? If so, will the minister discuss the matter with the Association of Universities and Colleges and the Canadian Association of University Teachers, with a view to preserving academic freedom?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, the matter has been under careful consideration. We must remember what the right hon. Prime Minister said, I think, in January.

It is now a matter of deciding whether students and professors are ordinary citizens and whether university campuses must be treated as sanctuaries impregnable to routine police work. That is the way in which we are considering the matter.

[English]

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister indicate whether there has been any consideration given to changing the policy regarding surveillance procedures on university campuses?

**Mr. Fairweather:** Which is the question I asked.

[Translation]

**Mr. Goyer:** Mr. Speaker, the question has just been asked and I have answered it.

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[English]

## PUBLIC WORKS

## COME-BY-CHANCE, NFLD.—PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN CONSTRUCTING DOCKING FACILITIES

**Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works. On March 30, in reply to a question put to him, the minister indicated that the government of Canada had requested from the provincial government of Newfoundland a guarantee to cover the amount of the government's involvement in the wharf and docking facility project at Come-By-Chance. Can the minister indicate whether the guarantee has been received? If not, is it the intention of the government to continue to press for the guarantee?

**Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, we are continuing to work toward negotiations with the Provincial Building Company Limited and the Provincial Refining Company Limited but so far have not