

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

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. René Tremblay (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, on Thursday June 4 the hon. member for Churchill raised the question of the federal-provincial conference on Indian affairs and asked me to inform the house which provinces were prepared to meet now and which provinces had indicated they would need more time.

To clarify matters, I should inform the hon. member and the house that the federal-provincial conference in question was not postponed as the result of a formal request from any of the provinces. It will be recalled that this conference is intended to deal with measures required to implement or further the aims and objectives generally agreed upon at the federal-provincial conference held in Ottawa last November. Since that time the federal government has been developing certain suggestions which would offer a promising possibility for consensus on the federal-provincial action that might be required.

These proposals are of such importance and complexity that, after full consideration, I came to the conclusion that a conference date in May would not provide sufficient time for their completion and presentation to the provinces in detail and still give the provinces time for adequate study. Accordingly it was suggested to the provinces that the conference be held later in the year so they might have more time to study the actual proposals that will be submitted to the conference.

**Mr. Gene Rhéaume (Northwest Territories):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister advise the house whether invitations to participate in this conference were extended to the governments of the Yukon and Northwest Territories?

**Mr. Tremblay:** I am not aware of that, but I will take this question as notice.

**Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill):** A supplementary question. Can the minister advise the house in relation to the answer he gave us whether some of the provinces did not indicate that they were preparing to go ahead with programs needing ratification by this conference? If the conference were held in October these programs would be delayed

[Mr. Gordon.]

some six months. Some very important projects in relation to Indian affairs would be delayed six months.

[Translation]

**Mr. Tremblay:** Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that such a delay could have these consequences.

[Text]

**PRIVILEGE****MR. MARCOUX—FAILURE OF CHAIR TO  
RECOGNIZE SOCIAL CREDIT MEMBERS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Speaker:** I must advise hon. members that there is time for one more question before orders of the day.

[Translation]

**Mr. Guy Marcoux (Quebec-Montmorency):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I should not like to extend the question period—

[Text]

**Mr. Churchill:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Will you permit other supplementary questions, then, or has the time elapsed?

**Mr. Speaker:** According to the rules given to me there is a 30 minute period for questions on Wednesdays, but this was a sort of special day. There was a long statement by the Chair and other questions, but if this is a question of privilege I think we should hear it, provided it is a serious one.

[Translation]

**Mr. Marcoux:** Mr. Speaker, it will not be long. I should not want to extend the question period even one second.

I only want to point out that no member of our party has been recognized this afternoon to put a question.

[Text]

**Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. To-day there has been only a half hour period for questions. While there is no great objection raised, since my hon. friend from Winnipeg South Centre is anxious to proceed with the business of the house, I think it should be noted that today, when we had only a half hour available, the Postmaster General, the Minister of Finance, the Secretary of State and the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration all made fairly extended statements. I am merely raising a point. If