

*Inquiries of the Ministry***DEFENCE SERVICES PENSION ACT**AMENDMENT TO REVISE AND CONSOLIDATE
CERTAIN PROVISIONS

Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence) moved that the house go into committee at the next sitting to consider the following resolution, which has been recommended to the house by His Excellency:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to provide for the revision and consolidation of certain of the pension provisions of the Defence Services Pension Act, for the payment out of the consolidated revenue fund of superannuation and other benefits to members of the Canadian forces and their dependants and for matters incidental thereto, and to provide further for certain administrative changes in connection therewith.

Motion agreed to.

**ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
ACT**AMENDMENT TO REVISE AND CONSOLIDATE
CERTAIN PENSION PROVISIONS, ETC.

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice) moved that the house go into committee at the next sitting to consider the following resolution, which has been recommended to the house by His Excellency:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to provide for the revision and consolidation of certain of the pension provisions of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act, for the payment out of the consolidated revenue fund of superannuation and other benefits to members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and their dependants and for matters incidental thereto, and to provide further for certain administrative changes in connection therewith.

Motion agreed to.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRSINVITATION TO CUBAN PRIME MINISTER TO
VISIT OTTAWA

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the government has invited the Prime Minister of Cuba, Dr. Fidel Castro, to come to Ottawa during his visit to Montreal and Toronto, which according to press reports he is to make next week?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Dr. Castro found it necessary to return to Havana earlier than had been anticipated. His visit to Montreal will therefore be greatly curtailed, and the arrangements for Ottawa and Toronto will be entirely cancelled.

The Prime Minister of Cuba offered to come to Ottawa to meet with me on Sunday, April 26, but unfortunately it was impossible for me to find a mutually convenient time. He

[Mr. Churchill.]

was informed yesterday that it was hoped that it would be possible for him to come to Ottawa at some time in the future for a visit in respect of which plans could be made in advance and which would permit a full discussion on matters of interest to Cuba and Canada.

I am informed that Dr. Castro has acknowledged the invitation and that he looks forward to an opportunity to come to Canada at some date in the future.

WEST BERLIN—STATEMENT ON HIGH ALTITUDE
FLIGHTS BY U.S. AIR FORCE

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Leader of the Opposition asked me the following question:

May I ask the Prime Minister if in view of the fact that Canada as a member of NATO is now sharing responsibility for the defence of West Berlin, Canada was consulted by the United States government before the decision was taken in Washington to use the Berlin air corridor above the ceiling of 10,000 feet?

The first of these flights took place on March 27. The second, on April 4, resulted from the necessity of the aircraft to go higher to avoid bad weather. The third was on April 15. In so far as the first flight was concerned, there was no knowledge by Canada in advance. In so far as the flight on April 15 was concerned, we were advised a few hours in advance.

WATER RESOURCESCHICAGO DIVERSION—MEETING BETWEEN PRIME
MINISTER AND MEMBERS OF U.S. CONGRESS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): May I direct a question to the Prime Minister. Will the Prime Minister be good enough to tell the house whether he received Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois this morning in order to discuss with him the question of the diversion of water from the great lakes basin into the Chicago drainage canal; and would the Prime Minister say, if he met the senator, what was the result of the interview?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): The hon. member for Essex West also intended to ask this question. Some few days ago the United States ambassador suggested that it might be possible for me to meet with United States Senator Douglas and Congressman Yates, one a member of the Senate from Illinois and the other a member of the House of Representatives, from the same state. They were here this morning and I met with them, though they were not here in any sense as an official delegation, because the suggestion had been made