

Inquiries of the Ministry

the Prime Minister say how soon the usual channels of communication to this house will be used by the government to indicate to the house the nature of the legislation with respect to the implementing of the terms of union?

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, amidst all that verbiage it is rather difficult to understand the hon. member's point—

Mr. Pickersgill: I was only seeking to repeat the words of the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Diefenbaker:—but making due allowance for the unnecessary and unattractive adornment may I say that the same question has been asked before. The legislation will be proceeded with some time during the present session, and as soon as possible.

Mr. W. H. McMillan (Welland): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance. Has consideration been given to inviting representatives of the municipalities to the forthcoming federal-provincial conference? I ask this because of their vital interest.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, this is a meeting of provincial treasurers and provincial ministers of finance with the federal Minister of Finance. So far as I am aware no municipal representatives are associated with the delegations representing any of the provinces.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

REQUEST FOR MAINTENANCE OF HISTORICAL RECORD

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, as an aged but sentimental rebel I wish to direct to the Secretary of State an appropriate question for this historic day.

In view of the report in the *Ottawa Citizen* of June 23 that Mr. Pearson, the architect of the present parliament buildings, died before he could complete a book giving an account of the historic features of our parliament buildings, and that there is only one man living who shares his knowledge, retired Sergeant Thomas L. Closs, formerly of the House of Commons protective staff; and in view of the importance of preserving this historical knowledge of such great interest to all Canadians, and because of the inexorable passing of time, would the minister consider taking immediate action to have Mr. Closs's knowledge of the historic features of our parliament buildings recorded for posterity?

Hon. Henri Courtemanche (Secretary of State): I wish to thank the hon. member for having given me notice of his question.

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

Unfortunately, today being a holiday, it is impossible for me to contact the proper departmental officials to give the hon. member the information he requires but as soon as possible I shall answer his question.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NATO—INQUIRY AS TO REPORTED MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether he can give us any information about the report that there is to be a meeting of NATO foreign ministers before the re-convening of the conference at Geneva; and if so, can he assure the house that any such meeting will include all the NATO members and not only a few of them?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, at the present time we have no indication that there will be such a meeting. The Leader of the Opposition will have noticed that statements were made after the recent meeting between the presidents of France and Italy to the effect that these two nations wish to have a meeting of the foreign ministers of the four nations, United States, United Kingdom, France and Italy. In this connection I should like to stress that, as I said on June 22, the Canadian government attaches great importance to the consultations on this question of the Geneva conference which have been taking place in the NATO council and are still continuing. It is in these consultations that Canada is particularly interested.

(Translation):

INQUIRY FOR RETURN

PRINTING BUREAU CONTRACTS, QUEBEC—ATLAS OF CANADAA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Alexis Caron (Hull): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Secretary of State if he hopes to answer my questions in the very near future?

Hon. Henri Courtemanche (Secretary of State): The answer is yes, Mr. Speaker.

(Text):

TRANSPORT

ST. JOHNS, QUE.—INQUIRY AS TO PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Yvon Dupuis (St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport, but in his absence I wish to direct my question to the Solicitor General.