

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, June 11, 1958

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

## VACANCY

**Mr. Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the house that I have received a communication informing me that a vacancy has occurred in the representation, namely:

Of Hon. Jean Lesage, member for the electoral district of Montmagny-L'Islet, by resignation.

Accordingly, I have addressed my warrant to the chief electoral officer for a new writ of election for the electoral district.

## RAILWAYS, CANALS AND TELEGRAPH LINES

### CONCURRENCE IN FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

**Mr. G. K. Fraser (Peterborough)** presented the first report of the standing committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines, and moved that the report be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

## CIVIL DEFENCE

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF SURVEY TO BE CONDUCTED BY LIEUTENANT GENERAL GRAHAM

**Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** I should like to announce that Lieutenant General Howard D. Graham, following his retirement on August 31 from the post of chief of the general staff of the Canadian army, as announced by my colleague the Minister of National Defence, has agreed to undertake on behalf of the government a comprehensive survey of all aspects of Canada's civil defence policy and program.

I might say that in the view of the government the need for a thorough reappraisal of current policies and programs at this time is underlined by the changing nature of the threat which confronts civil defence in this and in other countries. In the post-war decade, 1948-1958, during which civil defence has been active, the scale of attack has shifted from atomic to hydrogen weapons. For the years immediately ahead, civil defence faces the need to re-examine present plans and assumptions, based largely on hydrogen weapons, in order to make sure that

they take sufficient account of the new threat posed by the intercontinental ballistic missile.

It is expected that General Graham's survey will require him to visit various provinces of Canada in order to see for himself what progress in civil defence is being made at provincial and local levels. In this he will be expected to consult with provincial and municipal leaders, as well as those familiar with civil defence policies at the national level.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East):** May I ask the minister if General Graham's assignment will include a recommendation regarding the sharing of cost by the three levels of government, or will he just recommend to the minister proposals for reorganization of civil defence?

**Mr. Monteith (Perth):** I would expect that General Graham would probably study that angle of the problem.

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister suggest to General Graham that when he visits the municipal civil defence authorities he would be well advised to get in touch as much as possible with the persons who have been interested in civil defence, the rank and file. I think it would be of great value to him if he did so and that he would have a better understanding of their needs, requirements and dissatisfactions.

**Mr. Monteith (Perth):** Mr. Speaker, I shall be happy to pass on that suggestion to General Graham.

## STARRED QUESTION

### IMPORTS OF U.K. PRODUCTS ASSEMBLED IN U.S.

#### Question No. 11—Mr. Cardin:

1. What was the total amount of Canadian dollars paid to the United States in 1956 for imports of farm tractors manufactured in the United Kingdom and assembled in the United States?

2. Was this amount taken into consideration by the dominion bureau of statistics when compiling its figures regarding the Canadian trade deficit with the United States?

3. Are other products manufactured in the United Kingdom and imported into Canada from the United States? If so, what items?

4. Has the government taken any steps to encourage British companies to assemble farm tractors and other British products in Canada rather than in the United States? If so, with what results?