

*Inquiries of the Ministry***DEFENCE PRODUCTION****ATHOLVILLE, N.B.—INVITATIONS TO
INAUGURATION OF NEW PROJECT**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Defence Production. Has the minister sent out invitations to the inauguration of a new defence industry at Atholville, New Brunswick, which is to take place tomorrow?

Hon. Raymond O'Hurley (Minister of Defence Production): Mr. Speaker, there is a ceremony tomorrow involving the blessing of the building or the inauguration of the project. I have had absolutely nothing to do with the sending out of invitations, and the only knowledge I have is that I will be taking part.

Mr. Chevrier: Is the minister aware that invitations to the official opening have been sent out in his name?

Mr. O'Hurley: I am not aware that they are in my name. I know I will be attending, but I was not aware of invitations being sent out in my name.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillingate): I should like to ask a supplementary question. Is the minister aware that on May 12 there was a ceremony involving turning the sod on provincial land for the building which is being constructed by the provincial government to house this industry, and can the minister say why he was not there?

Mr. O'Hurley: I hope the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate does not mean to imply that I sent out those invitations also.

Mr. Pickersgill: No. I thought the minister would have liked to be there with the premier of New Brunswick.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the urgency of that meeting is in the past.

PARLIAMENT HILL**WEST BLOCK—SUGGESTED CHANGE IN COLOUR
OF TEMPORARY WALL**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I wish to address a question to the Minister of Public Works. In order to preserve as far as possible the external beauty and harmony of parliament hill during the reconstruction of the west block, would the minister give consideration to changing the colour of the temporary wall around the west block from the present interior public works grey to an external and harmonious green?

Hon. D. J. Walker (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, is the hon. member for Kootenay West suggesting that green is the colour of the New party? We considered making it blue, but we thought we might be suspect so we decided on a nice, quiet grey which would not show dust or debris.

**STATEMENT CONCERNING UNITED STATES FLAGS
FLOWN**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. D. J. Walker (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the hon. member for Skeena who questioned me yesterday as to whether my department was derelict in flying the United States flag on parliament hill with only 48 stars, may I say that I have long suspected that on occasion in this house the hon. member must see stars, but I had no idea that he ever found a dearth of them. As a matter of fact we recruited a squad of stargazers who went out and counted the number of stars on the flags on parliament hill. The hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate will be glad to hear that on each of the old glories everywhere on parliament hill there are 50 stars. However, to express the enthusiasm which we all feel for the presidential visit, we have flying throughout the city of Ottawa many old glories, old and new, containing 48, 49 and 50 stars. To relieve the anxiety of the hon. member may I say I am informed by the United States authorities that the official United States flag can contain 48, 49 or 50 stars. I hope that answers the question.

Mr. Hellyer: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister say whether any of them have 51 stars?

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**WITHHOLDING OF BENEFITS DUE TO ABSENCE
FROM AREA**

On the orders of the day:

Miss Judy V. LaMarsh (Niagara Falls): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Has the minister received information to the effect that at least four members of the delegation of the unemployed who visited Ottawa last month and therefore had their unemployment insurance benefits cut for that day have appealed this ruling to a board of referees?

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): That is right.

Miss LaMarsh: Can the minister assure the house that when the decision of the board of referees is handed down it will apply to all those who lost their daily benefit and not merely to the four who appealed?