

*Inquiries of the Ministry*ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS
RESPECTING MEDICAL CARE PROGRAM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. William Dean Howe (Hamilton South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Because of the introduction of a rather inferior medical plan in the province of Ontario, is the minister considering speeding up the introduction of the recommendations of the Hall commission, to provide a proper federal medical plan?

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I suppose my hon. friend is referring to a headline in a Toronto morning newspaper which indicated that a report is being made to the provincial government. As yet there is no indication that they are going to bring in what my hon. friend has characterized as an inferior plan.

However, I would like to say that my department is working at top speed in order to have recommendations to make to the premiers of the provinces, but because it is a matter of such great cost and importance I do not think it would be possible to have an earlier target than that already selected and announced.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR AGENDA OF DOMINION-
PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Some time ago the minister indicated that he would be making public the agenda for the dominion-provincial conference on Indian affairs. Inasmuch as this conference is just around the corner, I wonder if the minister could tell us what the agenda is.

[Translation]

Hon. René Tremblay (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, in answer to a question directed to me by the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas), I believe, I said that the members of the house who would express the wish to be made aware of the topics to be discussed during that conference could secure a list from me.

As the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam had expressed his interest, I sent him a letter listing the questions to be discussed. I

will be glad to send all hon. members of the house who so wish a list of the subjects to be discussed during that conference.

[Text]

[Later:]

Mr. Howard: Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise a question relating to the answer given just a moment ago by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration regarding the agenda for the dominion-provincial conference on Indian affairs. I understood the minister to say he undertook some time ago to send a copy of the conference agenda to members who expressed interest in it, but that is not what he said at the time he gave an answer to the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam on October 9. As recorded at page 8924 of *Hansard* for that date the minister said:

Mr. Speaker, I shall be pleased to send to the hon. members a copy of the agenda which lists the problems to be discussed.

Some of us have been waiting for the transmission of that document, or for it to be made public, so we can communicate the information contained in it to people back home. It is unfortunate that the words used by the minister on October 9 did not truly or accurately reflect his intentions.

[Translation]

Hon. René Tremblay (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I noted that the plural was used in the reference to "the hon. members", while what I said then, in reply to the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas), was that I would be pleased to send "to the hon. member" a copy of the agenda. That is what I did.

However, I shall gladly send a similar copy of the agenda to all hon. members anxious to get one.

[Text]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

COLUMBIA RIVER—ABSENCE OF NATIONAL
FLAGS AT SIGNING OF TREATY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. F. J. Bigg (Athabasca): I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, following up a question put to him yesterday by the hon. member for Regina City. Can he now tell the house whether a deliberate decision was made by the officials of his department that the Canadian red ensign and the stars and stripes would not be used as a backdrop for the