

*Inquiries of the Ministry*SONS OF FREEDOM—REQUEST FOR
ROYAL COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I wish to address another question to the Prime Minister. It is with regard to the Prime Minister's answer on March 21. Has he now received the resolution from the city council of Trail urging the establishment of a royal commission to explore all facets of the outbreaks of violence in the Kootenays? If so, what consideration is he giving to this important matter?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): A letter was received with the request in question. Because this is a matter that deals particularly with the administration of justice within the province, the setting up of any royal commission, I am sure, would be a matter for the provincial government of British Columbia.

SONS OF FREEDOM—SUGGESTED SHARING OF
LOSSES CAUSED BY TERRORISM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I have another question to ask the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. I know he realizes how my constituents are concerned. Has the Prime Minister now received the letter from Mr. T. A. McRae to which I referred on March 21, asking that the federal and provincial governments share equally the financial losses caused by acts of terrorism? If so, what consideration is he giving to this request?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I received a communication from Mr. McRae who indicated that he was speaking on behalf of a group of persons at a meeting. No consideration has been given to this request.

The administration of justice is within the jurisdiction of the province and, sympathetic as it is to the situation in which the people of that area of British Columbia find themselves, the federal government cannot act unless the provincial government, within the provisions of the National Defence Act, calls for assistance. This being a matter which peculiarly falls within the jurisdiction of the provincial government I suggest to the hon. member that such questions could generally be directed to the government of British Columbia by those who have communicated with me.

Mr. Herridge: I have a supplementary question. Does the Prime Minister realize that this group he mentions is composed of members of all parties representing the whole riding, including capital, labour and agriculture?

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Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, in the message received there is no identification as to the composition of the group. I thank the hon. member for giving the house that information. It was not given to me.

FISHERIES

SEAL HUNTING—REPORTED OPERATION OF
FOREIGN SHIPS WITHIN THREE MILE
LIMIT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. R. Tucker (Trinity-Conception): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. Has the minister been informed that foreign ships are operating inside the three mile limit killing seals at Grady, near Hamilton inlet off the coast of Labrador, and would he please have this matter investigated immediately by helicopter because of its importance to our Canadian sealers who are seal hunting in that area?

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, my department has been aware of this report for some time now. We have already investigated it and found that there were no sealing vessels inside the three mile limit, but that sealers from at least one vessel had been killing seals in Canadian territorial waters. We have been assured by the Norwegian authorities that this occurrence will not happen again. I might add that we are watching the situation closely.

POWER

COLUMBIA RIVER—REPORTED SUGGESTION FROM
U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPECTING RATIFICATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the Prime Minister's reply yesterday that he has received a message from Washington, presumably concerning the ratification of the Columbia river treaty, could the Prime Minister now say whether he has replied to the United States government?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, that communication was received just several days ago and no reply has been made as yet.

TRADE

URANIUM—INQUIRY AS TO NEGOTIATIONS
WITH UNITED KINGDOM

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate): Mr. Speaker, now that the Minister of Trade and Commerce has returned to the house I wish to ask him whether he has