

***INDIANS—REQUEST FOR TREATY
RATIFICATION**

Question No. 1,770—**Mr. Diefenbaker:**

Will the government give favourable consideration to placing before Parliament a Bill to confirm the terms of all Indian treaties made prior to Confederation and in particular the Jay Treaty?

Mr. H. E. Gray (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am also answering this question on behalf of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The answer is as follows:

A general study of all Indian treaties is now being carried out and it would be premature to make any comment at this time. This matter was also discussed during the Indian Act consultation meetings and will be discussed at future meetings.

The government will do all it can to abide by the provisions of the treaties bearing in mind the terms of the Canadian law.

The Indian Claims Commission, when it is established, will provide the Indian people with a means to have their claims heard.

The question of the Jay Treaty is under active consideration by the responsible department of government. A decision will be reached soon.

TRACKED VEHICLES IMPORTS

Question No. 1,788—**Mr. Paproski:**

1. How many tracked vehicles of the snowmobile "Skidoo" type have been imported into Canada in each of the following years: 1965, 1966, 1967 and 1968?

2. What is the amount of tariff charged on such vehicles and has there been any change in the tariff charge since 1964?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):
1. No statistics on the volume of snowmobile imports are available.

2. Tariff item 43868-1 provides for free entry under the British Preferential and Most-Favoured-Nation tariffs of snowmobiles equipped with tracks, runners, skis or combinations thereof, except snowmobiles equipped to perform special services or functions

Questions

or snowmobiles designed to function primarily as tractors. This tariff item came into effect on February 2, 1967. However, duty was remitted on snowmobiles imported during the period November 1, 1966 to February 2, 1967. These measures were taken to give effect to a duty-free arrangement with the United States, which grants free entry to Canadian snowmobiles.

Prior to February 2, 1967, snowmobiles were free of duty under the British Preferential Tariff but subject to a 17½ per cent duty under the Most-Favoured-Nation Tariff, pursuant to the provisions of tariff item 43803-1.

BLIND PERSONS ACT

Question No. 1,793—**Mr. Southam:**

Is the government giving any consideration to amending the Blind Persons Act so that (a) all blind Canadians, from age 18, receive a universal allowance as compensation for their blindness and this allowance be administered and paid by the federal government (b) this allowance be exempt from Income Tax (c) this universal allowance not be considered as income in welfare computation?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): (a), (b) (c) The government is presently reviewing all social welfare programs for which it has responsibility. In the course of this review attention will be given to the needs of the blind. When a decision is made the House will be informed in the usual way.

**ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE STATUS
OF WOMEN**

Question No. 1,797—**Mr. Diefenbaker:**

1. What is the total cost to date on the Royal Commission on the Status of Women and what further costs are anticipated or expected?

2. What are the names of the Commissioners and staff members and what amounts have been paid to each of them for (a) fees, emoluments or salaries and (b) expenses?

Mr. J. E. Walker (Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister): I am informed by the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada as follows:

- 1. Total cost to date (March 19, 1969) on the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada
- Estimated cost to end of fiscal year 1968/69
- Estimates for 1969/70

\$1,039,995.65

48,530.74

625,600.00

\$1,714,126.39