

CANADA ELECTIONS ACT—INQUIRY AS TO
AMENDMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate): Can the Acting Secretary of State say whether it is his intention at this session to introduce amendments to the Canada Elections Act?

Hon. Leon Balcer (Acting Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of government policy. The intention of the government will be announced by the house leader.

ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received the following communication:

Ottawa, July 7, 1960

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Patrick Kerwin, Chief Justice of Canada, acting as Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber today at 5.45 p.m. for the purpose of giving the royal assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be,
sir,

Your obedient servant,
E. Joly de Lotbiniere
Assistant Secretary to the Governor General

CIVIL DEFENCE

INQUIRY AS TO COMPULSORY PARTICIPATION IN
EXERCISES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Can the Minister of National Health and Welfare inform the house what regulations or orders are in effect or, if none are presently in effect, what are required in order to enable the compulsory participation of the population in civil defence exercises?

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Certainly as far as the Department of National Health and Welfare is concerned, Mr. Speaker, there are no orders in effect on this matter.

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): May I ask the minister a supplementary question. He says "as far as the Department of National Health and Welfare is concerned". Can he tell us to which minister such a question having to do with civil defence should be directed?

Mr. Monteith (Perth): To my knowledge, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: I suggest to the hon. members who are asking this question that in

Inquiries of the Ministry

effect they are asking for information about orders and regulations which are equally accessible to all hon. members of the house.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The question of the hon. member for Trinity was undoubtedly based on what someone said yesterday in Toronto with regard to compulsion in the matter of civil defence workers. The hon. member was simply asking for information as to which minister was responsible for this phase of civil defence. The Minister of National Health and Welfare has said that, as far as he is concerned he could not say. My question is this. Which minister in the government can give us an answer?

Mr. Monteith (Perth): If I recall the article correctly, Mr. Speaker, it seemed to me that any suggestion concerning compulsory participation was of a future nature or, in other words, a conjecture.

Mr. Hellyer: I have a supplementary question. This matter is becoming increasingly urgent. The tests are planned for early September in Toronto. I should like the minister to clarify first whether this comes within federal jurisdiction or provincial jurisdiction, as was suggested by the Toronto director. I should also like to ask whether he would now answer the question posed by my colleague the hon. member for Essex East with respect to which minister replies for the government in these matters.

Mr. Monteith (Perth): As I say, Mr. Speaker, not having a clear recollection of the article, I think probably I should take the question as notice and see what the article said.

GRAIN

WHEAT BOARD REGULATIONS RESPECTING
DELIVERIES TO FEED MILLS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Has the Minister of Trade and Commerce anything to report as a result of the inquiry he said yesterday he was going to make into whether the wheat board are enforcing quotas in accordance with the law as upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada, or whether they have abandoned the law on the basis of the undisclosed report of the agriculture committee?

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce): There has been no abandonment of the law.

Mr. Argue: Are these quotas being enforced at this time in accordance with the earlier practice?

Mr. Churchill: There has been no change in the action of the wheat board.