

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

to this decision of the railways. The commission is likewise prepared to make available any communication which is in its nature public.

**Mr. Coates:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** Subject to the reservations and conditions expressed by the minister, is it the pleasure of the house that notice of motion No. 28 be adopted?

Motion agreed to.

**DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS****DISCUSSIONS WITH PROVINCES RESPECTING OFFSHORE MINERAL RIGHTS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the Prime Minister's statement yesterday that he would look into the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada concerning off-shore rights, will the Prime Minister advise the house now whether it is the intention of this government to seek further opinions from the court with reference to off-shore rights as they affect other provinces?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to add too much to what I said yesterday. The matter is being very carefully considered. As soon as I can report to the house I shall be very glad to do so.

**Mr. Woolliams:** I should like to ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the Prime Minister's statement on a previous occasion to the effect that the matter would be discussed with the provinces after legal opinion was sought, is it the intention of the Prime Minister now to call a provincial conference to reach a decision in the light of the important economic and unity decisions which face Canada?

**Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I do not think any special conference is required for this purpose.

**Mr. D. V. Pugh (Okanagan Boundary):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Prior to yesterday, November 7, had the federal government entered into any provisional agreement with any company concerning offshore exploration in the province of British Columbia?

[Mr. Hellyer.]

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

**Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South):** I intended to ask a supplementary question to the first question put to the Prime Minister concerning the Supreme Court decision respecting offshore rights of British Columbia. Since this decision applied only to the west coast, is it the intention of the Prime Minister to deal with the problem of Nova Scotia by consultation, or is it the intention that the rights of Nova Scotia to offshore minerals be referred to the Supreme Court?

**Mr. Pearson:** We are now discussing the best procedure to follow in order to clear up this matter in the light of the decision which has been rendered.

**Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South):** During these discussions will the Prime Minister take into consideration that a precedent has been established by Nova Scotia under which the province has been taking offshore minerals for nearly 100 years?

**Mr. Pearson:** The government of Nova Scotia certainly has brought its special position to our attention.

**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE****SUGGESTED CONSIDERATION OF HOMOSEXUAL PROBLEMS BY COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the decision of the Supreme Court yesterday confirming the sentence of indefinite preventive detention of George Klippert, and since most authorities are now agreed that homosexuality is a social and psychiatric problem rather than a criminal one, I should like to ask the government whether it will consider setting up a commission similar to the Wolfenden commission in Great Britain which brought in such enlightened and humane recommendations for coping with this problem.

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** I will be very glad to consider that matter, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Douglas:** May I ask whether any departments of government have been giving any study to this social problem.