

Inquiries of the Ministry
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

REPORTED BOMB THREAT TO CENTRE BLOCK

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. E. Pascoe (Moose Jaw-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I address a question to the Prime Minister. Was a bomb threat to the centre block of parliament received late Friday afternoon, and, if so, what action was taken?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): No such threat was received to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker. I shall be glad to look into it and see if anybody else received it.

WORLD FAIR**REPORTED INVITATION TO RED CHINA TO PARTICIPATE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I would like to direct to the attention of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and in his absence possibly the parliamentary secretary could take it as notice. Has the minister any statement to make regarding nationalist China being invited to participate in Canada's world fair while our customer and partner in trade, mainland China, is not being invited?

Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I shall bring this question to the attention of the minister.

COAL**CONTINUATION OF SUBSIDY ON EXPORTS TO JAPAN**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I wish to address a question to the Acting Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, or to the appropriate minister. My question refers to a very important announcement made by the hon. member for Kootenay East in his constituency which means, in effect, that the present government intends to continue the policy established by the former Progressive Conservative government of paying a subsidy on coal shipped from Kootenay East to Japan.

I think this is an important announcement, and that the house is entitled to have information of this kind directly. Would the appropriate minister inform the house if this statement is correct and give us some details, some further information.

Hon. H. J. Robichaud (Acting Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): In the absence of the Minister of Mines and Technical

[Mr. Gordon.]

Surveys, may I take the question as notice and bring it to the attention of my colleague?

HEALTH AND WELFARE**ROYAL COMMISSION—INQUIRY AS TO REPORT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I may ask the Prime Minister whether he is in a position to give the house an answer to the question I put to him on February 20, when I asked him when we might expect the tabling of the report of the royal commission on health services.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I apologize for not having put it on the record of the house, but I informed the hon. member, after he had asked the question, that in reply to a communication from the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam earlier I had informed him, and I am glad to inform the hon. member and the house now, that our latest information indicates that the report of this royal commission will not be presented until May. As I pointed out to the hon. member when I wrote to him, I am as disappointed as the house will be at the delay in bringing this important work to a conclusion. We are emphasizing to the commission the necessity of getting the report before the house as quickly as possible.

EDUCATION**LOANS TO STUDENTS—REPRESENTATIONS BY QUEBEC**

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montréal): Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the Prime Minister?

Since the province of Quebec and other Canadian organizations are against federal loans to students, because they are considered as infringing on the field of education, is it the government's intention to withdraw that legislation?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Pigeon: May I put a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker?

Does the government intend to set up a federal department of education, as suggested by the hon. member for Northumberland (Miss Jewett)?

[Text]

Mr. Pearson: This is an absurd question because the hon. member knows there is no such intention.