

Inquiries of the Ministry
HOUSE OF COMMONS

REQUEST THAT NEW DESIGN BE FLOWN
 ON PARLIAMENT HILL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I should like to revert for a moment to the flag issue to ask the Prime Minister the following question. Last Thursday, in answer to a question I put to him, he said he would be glad to arrange to have the flag proposed in the resolution which is to be introduced fly unofficially from the flag poles in front of the parliament buildings. Could he inform the house when this will be done?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would think perhaps tomorrow or Friday, say from five to eight o'clock, would be a suitable time. The flag pole is occupied today.

Mr. Brewin: A supplementary question. In answer to another question at the same time last Thursday the Prime Minister said that he would be glad to look into the suggestion of flying a single maple leaf design; and in view of the fact that I believe he has received a flag with that design, as I have, can he now say whether this suggestion will be acted upon so the house can see both designs before hon. members make up their minds?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I think it would be a little confusing—and I have been thinking about the matter—if two flags were flown, one representing the design that the government is submitting to parliament for its decision and one representing the design favoured by my hon. friend as a private member.

Mr. Mandziuk: A supplementary question.

Mr. Churchill: A supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I must remind hon. members that many of these questions on the flag issue have been admitted because of the general emotional interest; but to carry this question on too far is clearly breaking a rule which the house itself has given me, namely that it is improper to anticipate an order on the order paper.

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question does not anticipate an order of the house. I think in fairness to the people who have submitted designs of flags the Prime Minister should, in deference to their wishes, also fly them outside the parliament buildings, particularly the ones chosen by the committee in 1946 as well as the other superior designs, compared with his flag, which he is now concealing.

POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE IN HOUSE LEADERSHIP

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. L. Chatterton (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Has the Prime Minister yet received a request from the Minister of Justice to be relieved of his duties as government house leader?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. The hon. gentleman and I—and it is quite improper for me to be discussing this matter in the house—have been in consultation with regard to this matter. I know how heavy are his duties but I also know how well he is performing all of them, and I hope he will continue.

Mr. Chatterton: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, of the Minister of Justice. In view of the statement made by the minister on television on Monday night that he needed more time for his duties as a member of the house, as Liberal leader in Quebec and as Minister of Justice, when will he formally put the question to the Prime Minister about being relieved of his duties?

CONSUMER CREDIT

**STATEMENT ON SALARIES OF ADVISERS TO
 JOINT COMMITTEE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Wellington South asked me about the authorization for payments to certain assistants to the joint House of Commons and Senate committee on consumer credit, and I promised to try to have an answer for him today.

The authorization for these payments to the committee assistants was made not by the Minister of Finance but under an order of the House of Commons and the Senate which was passed in this house on April 30. The decision to engage the two assistants in question was made on May 26 by the joint committee steering group. Payments will be made out of the normal vote in the legislation estimates. It appears likely that supplementary estimates may be required for this purpose.