Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): I think it is an excellent idea to appoint a commission to do exactly nothing; so far we have had every other kind.

CIVIL SERVICE

INQUIRY WITH RESPECT TO SUMMER WORKING HOURS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. T. Richard (Ottawa East): I should like to ask the Secretary of State whether any further representations have been received from organized groups in the civil service with respect to hours of work during the summer, and whether further consideration will be given the change which the civil servants have proposed.

Hon. F. G. Bradley (Secretary of State): So far as I am aware, no representations have been made since the order was issued. If any are made, presumably they will be considered when they are received.

POSTAL SERVICE

DENIAL OF THE USE OF MAILS—CALGARY STAMPEDERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. L. Smith (Calgary West): I had intended to direct this question to the Postmaster General, but perhaps in his absence it can be answered by the Minister of Justice. The question arises out of a dispatch appearing in the Toronto Daily Star of Saturday last, to the effect that all postal privileges of the Calgary Stampeders football club and T. L. Brook, as president, have been suspended until at least July 14. It also advises that the use of the mail for lottery purposes is contrary to postal regulations. Since it is a well-known fact that the Criminal Code of Canada provides ample machinery for the punishment of persons conducting lotteries, why has this bureaucratic, arbitrary, arrogant and stupid procedure been adopted?

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Some hon. Members: Answer.

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not think that is a question that requires any answer in this house.

Mr. Graydon: The Stampeders should have an answer.

Mr. St. Laurent: If the Stampeders require an answer they should have their question put in more proper form.

[Mr. Garson.]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND—USE OF DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. Chester S. McLure (Queens): With the change-over to diesel engines on the island division of the Canadian National Railways, which includes Prince Edward Island, I would ask the Minister of Transport to keep in mind the understanding that there will be no layoff of men as a result.

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport): I shall be glad to bring the matter to the attention of the Canadian National Railways.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Dion in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

Defence forces-

202. To provide for the defence forces of the navy, army and air services, and to authorize total commitments for this purpose of \$579,301,670 including authority, notwithstanding section 29 of the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act, to make commitments for the current year of \$438,178,000 and commitments for future years of \$141,123,670 against which commitments it is estimated that actual expenditures in 1950-51 will not exceed, \$384,932,304.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Chairman, this covers the bulk of the items of the department. When it was last before the committee a number of questions were asked in regard to certain details. Some time has since elapsed, and in the intervening period events of considerable importance have emphasized the necessity of considering these estimates with due regard to their significance as related to our present situation in a very troubled world.

If there was any atmosphere of unreality surrounding the discussion of defence estimates up to this point, it must have been removed by the events of the past forty-eight hours.

Mr. Chairman, I shall wait until the various conferences that are taking place in the chamber have resolved themselves to some conclusion.

The Chairman: Order.

Mr. Drew: We now have seen events take place which we hope will have a satisfactory solution. It must be the immediate hope of every member that the action of the United Nations, which has been taken so promptly, will result in the explosive conditions which developed in Korea being remedied, because on the one hand it would protect people who have been attacked without justification, and