

Inquiries of the Ministry

Miss LaMarsh: Mr. Speaker, as a privy councillor, surely since my report given to the house has been called into question this should sustain a question of privilege. There should be no question about this because I have in my hand the record of the cabinet decision, which consists of about three lines, to which is attached a memorandum by the then secretary of state, Hon. Ellen Fairclough. I should be pleased, so there may be no question about this, if I could be allowed to read it—

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I again rise on a question of order. Let us return to motions. I have here the document giving the arms to Canada—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There obviously is disagreement at this time as between the Leader of the Opposition and the Secretary of State. It seems to me that even if we did revert to motions we would not settle the difficulty. So perhaps we should go on to another question.

STORMS**HURON AND PERTH COUNTIES, ONTARIO—
ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING TORNADO**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): Mr. Speaker, I have a question which I have been advised should be addressed to the right hon. Prime Minister. It has to do with the tornado which went through Huron and Perth counties earlier this week as a result of which there has been loss of life and much property damage. A fund has been started by local residents to aid the victims of this tornado. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he would consider matching from the federal disaster fund the dollars raised by the local residents or, in whatever way he might see fit, give federal assistance. I am sure any assistance would be gratefully received.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend no doubt is aware, although serious enough to those affected the decision with regard to relief measures in this connection is in the hands of the provincial government. If the provincial government feels that federal aid is required the provincial government then gets in touch with the federal authorities. However, the department concerned, the Department of Agriculture, has already sent a telegram to the minister of agriculture in Toronto asking whether he would send to the

[Mr. Speaker.]

federal authorities an outline of a provincial proposal for an assistance program. When this is received the government will know what part it should play in this relief program.

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Perth): Mr. Speaker, I should like to mention in passing that on Tuesday an announcement was made in the Ontario house to the effect that representations were being made to the federal government on behalf of the victims of the disaster in Perth and Huron counties, and I understand an emergency fund has been organized and set up. I think application has been made to the national revenue department to the effect that donations to the fund should be tax free. Will the minister look into this matter with all haste so the organizers of the fund may inform donors that their donations will be tax free?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has made his representation to the minister.

Mr. Monteith: I am asking the minister whether he will look into this matter with all possible speed.

EDUCATION**REPORTED REQUIREMENT THAT SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO U.S.**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, may I give an answer which I think is commensurate with the question addressed to me the other day regarding the policy of the United States government in requiring loyalty oaths in respect of scholarships being awarded to Canadian students. This particular question was directed to me by the hon. member for Saskatoon and was based on a message received from a student. That student since has been in touch with my office by telephone to say that he wished me to know that his complaint turned out to be unfounded.

On the general question, we have been in touch with the United States government—the state department—and have been informed that it is against the policy of the United States government to require loyalty oaths from foreign students. There is only one exception to this policy. Under the national defence education act foreign students who apply for fellowships and indicate at that time their intention to become United States citizens must take the loyalty oath. With that exception, should evidence be provided to the