

Inquiries of the Ministry

in the area which they thought was of the greatest economic advantage to the enterprise.

[Later:]

[Translation]

Mr. Clément Vincent (Nicolet-Yamaska): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance?

Could the minister tell us if the establishment of the Peugeot and Renault plants in the Terrebonne region, which follows that of General Motors in Sainte Thérèse, can make us hope that a steel complex will be set up soon in the province of Quebec?

[Text]

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, in the first place I am not exactly sure where the Renault-Peugeot works are going to be built, except that they will be in the Montreal area. If it was my good fortune to come from that area I would certainly hope that a great steel complex would be built there one of these days.

PROCEDURE

MOTION FOR CONCURRENCE IN ELEVENTH REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

On the order:

That the eleventh report of the special committee on procedure and organization presented to the house on October 7, 1964, be now concurred in.

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): I would ask that this motion stand. I hope we can go ahead with it on Monday.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that a communication has been received, as follows:

15 October 1964

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Hon. Robert Taschereau, P.C., Chief Justice of Canada, acting as Deputy to His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber today, the 15th October, at 5.45 p.m., for the purpose of giving royal assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. G. Cherrier

Assistant Secretary to the Governor General

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RUSSIA—REPORTED CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP OF COMMUNIST PARTY

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to direct one

or two questions to the Secretary of State for External Affairs regarding the reported resignation of Chairman Khrushchev and the succession of Alexei Kosygin, a deputy premier, as acting premier, and Leonid Brezhnev as head of the communist party, he having previously been chairman of the praesidium. Is the minister in the position to give the house any idea whether the accession of these two men signifies any disagreement between them and Chairman Khrushchev over the question of coexistence and, particularly, whether in view of their rather close relationship over the years with Mao and communist China their achievement of power does, in the opinion of the Department of External Affairs, cause any fear for international security and peace?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Over the past 24 hours there has been private speculation, and, since this morning there has been considerable public speculation, concerning changes in the direction of the government of the Soviet union. These rumours have been given substance by the failure to publish today the U.S.S.R. government newspaper *Izvestia*. I am advised that it is possible there might be a publication of this newspaper by the end of the day. This is a pattern that has been observed in the case of other important changes in the government of that country.

We are led to believe that official announcements of changes at the top level in the government of the Soviet union will be made tonight or tomorrow morning. However, as of 3.30 this afternoon I cannot say that there is any official announcement that I could rely on at this moment which would confirm these speculations. In any event, I would ask my right hon. friend not to press me for views as to what these changes might mean if in fact they have taken place.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the great international importance of this news, would the Secretary of State for External Affairs keep the house fully informed on any information he gets from our ambassador in Moscow with respect to the truth of these reports?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, this matter is of considerable importance to this parliament, to the people of the country and to the world, and I certainly will keep the house informed. I have just received a further bulletin, which confirms that there is no official information as yet.