

*Inquiries of the Ministry***POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT****REPORT OF MR. JUSTICE ANDRÉ MONTPETIT
ON WORKING CONDITIONS**

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 2 of Standing Order 41, I wish to table a report from Mr. Justice André Montpetit with respect to environmental and physical working conditions directly related to matters in the Post Office Department.

[*Translation*]

It is with great pleasure that I table these documents in both French and English.

[*Translation*]

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that a message has been received from the Senate informing this house that the Senate have passed Bill C-162, an act to amend the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act, without any amendment.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

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

Government House,
Ottawa, 13 February, 1969

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Right Hon. J. R. Cartwright, P.C., M.C., Chief Justice of Canada, acting as Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber today, the 13th February, 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,
Louis-Frémont Trudeau
Brigadier General

Assistant Secretary to the Governor General.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**CANADIAN CONSTITUTION****REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE OF PROPOSALS
FOR REVISION**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether the government subjects which concern the powers of parliamentary committee to examine and discuss the proposals now being put forward for constitutional revision. I ask this question particularly in view of the fact that a number of subjects which concern the powers of parliament, the relationship between the houses of

[Mr. Baldwin.]

parliament, and the structure of government in Canada are now being actively discussed and it would seem appropriate to provide some mechanism for these matters to be discussed and examined in parliament.

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the government would be prepared to consider this request, although perhaps after tomorrow's debate we might have a better idea of the utility of setting up such a committee. I would be prepared to consider it then, perhaps with a view to setting specific subjects of constitutional relevance in front of a committee. Once again, I think it would be untimely to put the whole constitutional question before a committee, but I believe the Leader of the Opposition is suggesting certain governmental positions. We could take them one by one. I would not be averse to such an idea at this time, but I would prefer to make a decision after we have heard the debate tomorrow.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have one or two related questions to address to the right hon. Prime Minister. First, would the Prime Minister consider not only setting up a parliamentary committee here, but also discussing with the premiers and prime ministers of the provinces the desirability of having parliamentary committees across the country so that when the next constitutional conference is held the premiers will speak for all sides in their legislatures, and the Prime Minister will speak for all sides in this parliament. I am not suggesting he interfere with the provinces, but I am asking whether he would consult with them about this kind of procedure for the constitutional revision.

Mr. Diefenbaker: It is not a very good principle.

Mr. Trudeau: I think I am inclined to agree with the right hon. member for Prince Albert. I would hope that this question may be raised in the various legislatures across the country. I do not think I would venture to answer the question, but I can say that if we do set up a parliamentary committee it would I suppose, deal in part with subjects which are of provincial and federal interest; the question might then arise as to whether we are interfering in provincial affairs. I hope that this would not be the interpretation and that such a committee could, if necessary, travel across the country. It is a delicate subject and might require the kind of consultation which the leader of the New Democratic party is suggesting.