

OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT

INQUIRY AS TO AMENDMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): In the absence of the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson) I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister if the government has yet reached a decision with reference to the suggested introduction of an amendment at this session to the Official Secrets Act.

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Acting Prime Minister): I am unable to answer that question. I will make inquiries and answer it tomorrow.

INQUIRIES FOR RETURNS

PUBLIC SERVICE—TRAVELLING AND LIVING EXPENSES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre): I again want to bring to the attention of the Secretary of State the fact that the return which was ordered over six weeks ago with regard to travelling expenses has not been brought down. Yesterday or the day before he said there were a couple of departments that were still held back. Surely that should be available; and I would ask the minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I am raising a question of privilege, sir. These returns are too long overdue. Will the Secretary of State bring down the returns for all but the two departments that are holding back these returns? Will he bring the others down?

Hon. F. G. Bradley (Secretary of State): I do not think that on any occasion I said that these returns were being held back.

Mr. Diefenbaker: No?

Mr. Bradley: I said that they were not ready.

Mr. Diefenbaker: All right.

Mr. Bradley: I will make inquiries and do what I can to facilitate the matter.

OFFENCES UNDER FEDERAL STATUTES—PROSECUTIONS AND CONVICTIONS IN NEWFOUNDLAND

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. J. Browne (St. John's West): On May 22 a question asked by me was passed as an order for return. It was a simple question. I wonder if the answer has been prepared. The question was this: Have there been any convictions in Newfoundland since

Inquiries of the Ministry

April 1, 1949, for offences under federal statutes? I understood that instructions had been given by the attorney general's department in Newfoundland that no prosecutions were to be taken; and I understand that prosecutions have been taken under federal statutes, although the Criminal Code was not in effect.

Hon. F. G. Bradley (Secretary of State): I will look into the matter.

OLD AGE PENSIONS

STATUS OF PERSONS COMPENSATED FOR FLOOD DAMAGE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Can the Minister of National Health and Welfare now give me an answer to the question I asked him yesterday?

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): The hon. member yesterday asked me whether or not payments made to old age pensioners by way of compensation for destruction of home as a result of the Manitoba flood would be treated as income under the Old Age Pensions Act. As he knows, of course, the decision with regard to the calculation of income, as well as with regard to the amount of the pension in any individual case, is a matter which under the act rests with the provinces. The compensation paid to an old age pensioner for loss of home by fire is not treated as income. So far as the federal government is concerned, we would treat compensation to an old age pensioner for reconstruction of his home as a result of flood damage as an analogous situation.

FLOOD CONDITIONS

SOUTHERN MANITOBA—MONTHLY PAYMENTS ACCRUING ON EVACUATED HOUSES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. William Bryce (Selkirk): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Resources and Development, or, in his absence, to the parliamentary assistant. Has the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation made any representations to insurance companies asking them to permit evacuees to forgo monthly payments while their families are evacuated?

Mr. George Prudham (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Resources and Development): In the absence of the minister, Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice and bring down the information tomorrow.