

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the agreement has not yet been signed but negotiations are proceeding satisfactorily.

Mr. McWilliam: I have a supplementary question. Will the minister consider obtaining the concurrence of the New Brunswick provincial government with regard to tabling the documents in this matter?

Mr. Monteith (Perth): Yes, of course, Mr. Speaker. However, I think these agreements or copies of them are automatically tabled after they are signed.

Mr. Pickersgill: Not unless they are asked for.

QUEBEC—INQUIRY AS TO INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question of the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the statement made by the premier of Quebec yesterday with regard to his view on hospital insurance, does the minister not think this might be a propitious moment for him to show the effectiveness of his initiative by seeking to persuade the premier of Quebec as to the desirability of Quebec's participation in the scheme of hospital insurance in Canada?

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, this is one of the hon. member's usual lengthy questions. I think there was some intimation that there was a lack of initiative on the part of the minister?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Yes.

Mr. Monteith (Perth): Thank you very much. I should just like to point out that more initiative has been shown by this department in the last two years than was shown in the preceding several years. Not having seen the article referred to by the hon. member, I shall withhold comment.

TRADE

RUSSIA—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT RESPECTING EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, might I ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce whether any progress has been made toward renewal of the trade agreement with the Soviet union which expired last February?

[Mr. McWilliam.]

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Yes, Mr. Speaker. We have had a series of conversations with the representatives of the U.S.S.R. I hope very soon to be able to announce the conclusion of an agreement.

AUTOMOBILES—REQUEST FOR RECIPROCAL TREATMENT ON EXPORTS TO U.K.

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): May I ask a question of the minister. My hon. friend will recall that a few weeks ago I asked him a question about a trade agreement between the United Kingdom and the Soviet union under which the Soviet union was given the right of selling in the United Kingdom automobiles made in the Soviet union. I asked the minister whether he would not give consideration to taking steps toward providing at least the equivalent opportunity for sale in the United Kingdom market of automobiles manufactured in Canada.

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Yes; consideration is always given to the hon. member's suggestions.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Will we ever get any results? That is the point.

Mr. Churchill: We will get far better results than you were ever able to produce in this house.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT

AMENDMENTS TO INCREASE RATES OF REMUNERATION AND CONTRIBUTIONS, ETC.

The house resumed from Wednesday, June 17, consideration in committee of Bill No. C-43, to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act—Mr. Starr—Mr. Sevigny in the chair.

On clause 1—*Repeal*.

Mr. McMillan: Mr. Chairman, I listened with great care to the evidence given in the committee on industrial relations by the governor of the Bank of Canada, by the deputy minister of finance and by others. I do not want to criticize anyone personally, but I cannot help but believe that the members of the investment committee of the unemployment insurance commission, by virtue of their positions there and in also directing the fiscal policy of our country, have a dual role. By nature of their positions in this dual capacity they cannot help but have duties which are in considerable measure diametrically opposed one to the other.

This position becomes more evident at a time when we have a falling bond market, and at a time when it is difficult for the Minister of Finance to dispose of bonds to