

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I hate to once again remind the hon. member that he has a reputation for inaccuracy—

Mr. Argue: Answer the question.

Mr. Hamilton: —because the experimental farm has been used for purposes other than agriculture in the past.

This is what my position has been. First of all, with regard to any building I will authorize to be built for my department, I will consider the comfort of the people who will be working in such a building. That is No. 1. Second, I will consider the location of the building and whether it has been brought into conformity with the plans of the national capital commission. I will also consider the convenience and efficiency of the department in relation to other buildings housing government departments.

So the answer to the hon. member's question is that as soon as these various components of the problem can be brought down to the point of final decision, an announcement will be made.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**CENTRE BLOCK—RENOVATION OF MEN'S WASHROOMS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. W. Brunsdon (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Public Works. While we all appreciate his zeal and enthusiasm for the winter works program, may I ask him if it was absolutely necessary to have all the men's public washrooms in the centre block painted and varnished on the same day?

Mr. Argue: Especially a cold day.

Hon. D. J. Walker (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I heard that the hon. member was running to and fro yesterday. I had not appreciated the cause until this moment. I now appreciate, however, that the plumbers and decorators were more anxious to maintain the decor of the parliament buildings than to consider the comfort of the members of parliament. I can assure the hon. member that this incident will not occur again.

(Translation):

CANADIAN INDUSTRY**INQUIRY AS TO STATEMENT BY THE ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Yvon Dupuis (St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Associate Minister of [Mr. Argue.]

National Defence (Mr. Sevigny) arising from a statement he made yesterday in this house, to the effect that industries in various provinces of this country are setting aside their expansion plans because they are worried about the future. Could the minister give the names of those industries and could he tell the house what the government intends to do to prevent industries from setting aside their expansion plans?

Hon. Pierre Sevigny (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the question of the hon. member for St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville (Mr. Dupuis) I should say that the first definite information I got on that matter was given to me in private conversations and I respect the confidential nature of that information.

With your permission however, I would suggest, in answer to the hon. member, that he look around his own constituency and he will find that what I said yesterday is true.

Mr. Dupuis: Mr. Speaker, may I complete my question and ask the Associate Minister of National Defence if he has done anything to prevent this flight of industries?

Mr. Sevigny: Mr. Speaker, in answer to the hon. member for St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville, I would suggest that he read in this regard the measures announced in the speech from the throne and that he study the supplementary budget; he will find that this government has done a lot through the budget to improve economic conditions in this country, a lot more than what could be achieved through the resolutions passed at the recent convention of the Liberal party.

Mr. Dupuis: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. In this budget mentioned by the minister, is there anything else than deficits?

Some hon. Members: Order.

(Text):

Mr. Speaker: That information is open to all hon. members of the house.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**IMPOSITION OF DEATH PENALTY ON 14-YEAR OLD BOY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. C. Coates (Cumberland): I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Is the Prime Minister in a position to indicate what action is to be taken regarding the death penalty recently imposed on a 14-year old youth?