

Inquiries of the Ministry

bearing in mind Canada's past actions in providing assistance to such disaster areas, will the Prime Minister indicate whether any action has been contemplated by Canada to render assistance to that country?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): We are giving consideration to this tragedy at the moment, Mr. Speaker, and I am going to make a report as soon as possible.

URANIUM**CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF URANIUM OXIDE TO U.K.**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Was any other uranium mining company given consideration before the \$100 million British uranium contract was awarded to Rio Algom mines?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this is a contract between a company and an authority in Great Britain. The government had nothing whatever to do with the negotiation of the contract, only with authorizing it after it was completed.

[*Translation*]

[*Later:*]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Can the Prime Minister tell us how many companies in the Elliot Lake area are producing uranium at present?

Mr. Speaker: The member cannot ask for statistical data at the present time.

[*English*]

INDUSTRY**SALMO, B.C.—REPORTED INTENTION TO CLOSE MINE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Industry and Defence Production. I am asking the question because this matter is causing serious concern to many communities in southeastern British Columbia. I am sure the question falls within the rules.

In view of the announcement that Cominco Limited of Montreal intends to close the H. B. mine at Salmo, British Columbia on November 1, 1966, and in view of the serious effect this announcement has had on the 100 miners affected and the community as a

[*Mr. Thompson.*]

whole, will the minister investigate the situation to see what can be done to provide continued employment for the miners and other persons affected in this community?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. gentleman for giving me notice of his intention to ask the question. I am not familiar with the detail involved here, but with my colleagues I shall be glad to look into the matter.

OLD AGE SECURITY**INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATION THIS SESSION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the government house leader. When can we anticipate the introduction of legislation in regard to the increase in old age security pensions?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, as soon as we can finish the business that is now before the house and the urgent items on the order paper we will have an opportunity of dealing with that matter.

Mr. Winkler: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I would ask the government house leader if he does not think—

Mr. Starr: We will have it July 1, 1968.

Mr. Winkler: —that legislation providing for an increase in the old age security pension is more important than the legislation now before us?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is asking for an expression of opinion.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**REQUEST FOR TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE BY MINISTER**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. Yesterday he referred to a press conference in which he alleges that he gave some information concerning his policy to reduce the navy to a position of ineffectiveness. Will the minister make available immediately a transcript of the questions and answers at that conference, without expurgation?

Mr. Diefenbaker: And unrevised.