

Inquiries of the Ministry

against the rules of the House to ask for a legal opinion. All I am asking the minister is whether section 18 A(ii) of the act will be complied with. Will the moneys be paid as of the date when the act came into force or will they be paid on the basis of the date of the individual's retirement?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): May I take the question as notice and answer it later on.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member rising on a supplementary question? We have just about reached the end of the question period. The hon. member may ask a supplementary question.

• (8:50 p.m.)

Mr. MacInnis: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, hon. members opposite are hollering and screaming to the effect that I want a legal opinion. I have been perfectly satisfied—in fact, more than satisfied—with the findings of the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee which was chaired by an hon. member of the party opposite and manned by 12 members of that party. All I ask of the minister as a supplementary question is: After looking at this legislation, will he instruct Devco to assure the dependants of former miners of their rightful payments under the legislation?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I just said that I am taking the question as notice.

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Greenwood. I will try to recognize another hon. member before the end of the question period.

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IMMIGRATION**GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER OF 1966—INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS**

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. It arises out of previous questions when there was some suggestion about introducing a new white paper on immigration. Has the minister any plans to introduce legislation to carry out the proposals that appeared in the government's white paper of 1966?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, in reviewing the possible amendments to the Immigration Appeal Board Act, we have also been taking into consideration changes that might be made in the Immigration Act, some of which might deal with matters raised in the white paper to which the hon. member refers.

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TRADE**EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET—GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS**

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indus-

[Mr. MacInnis.]

try, Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact that the United States, New Zealand and Australia are making strenuous efforts to maintain agricultural exports, particularly grain, to European Common Market countries, what steps is Canada taking to protect its grain export interest in this area?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I know the United States is trying to reach agreement with the European Economic Community on grains, and if such agreement is reached we will of course ask to be part of it.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. Paproski: On a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I note there are a number of points of order and questions of privilege that hon. members wish to raise. I will recognize the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate first on a question of privilege.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, yesterday I raised a question with regard to the tabling of a sealing treaty between Norway and Canada, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs agreed to table it. After the time for motions had passed today I again raised the matter and the Secretary of State for External Affairs indicated he would table it later today. Tonight, after making a response to a question, he did table the document. I then rose and asked for the unanimous consent of the House—which might or might not have been in order—so that I or somebody else on this side could respond to the document which was tabled. We were denied that privilege. I have in my hand a copy of a press release which was issued on December 2—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have to inform the hon. member that the rules of the House apply to him also. I have twice ruled that he has no question of privilege. He puts the Chair in a very difficult position. I would invite him to say immediately what his question of privilege is, and then allow me to make a ruling on it.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, there is a rule in the House of Commons which allows ministers to make statements on motions and spokesmen for opposition parties to respond to them. I have in my hand what is in fact a statement made outside the House.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lundrigan: The statement was made this very day after the minister came into the House. Before that it was presented to the press. It is a fairly succinct statement which gives the details of the document which was tabled. Because the minister, outside the House, presented this fairly detailed statement to the media of the country, he has denied the right of members of this party to make representations on behalf of the Canadian people.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, he has not only denied the right of hon. members here but has denied that right to every Canadian on the east coast of Canada—and I only hope that all Canadians who are interested in marine