

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

to be the beginning of the government's process of bypassing the electorate in the same way it now bypasses Parliament.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

## STUDY OF MEMBERS' INDEMNITIES, ETC.

**Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister? Two hundred and sixty-four members of the House are interested in the matter but nobody seems to have the guts to ask the question so I will do so. Does the Prime Minister have under consideration the appointment of a commissioner or commissioners to study all aspects of salaries, expenses, research facilities, offices, indemnities and everything else with regard to members of the House of Commons and perhaps the Senate? If so, when does he expect to name the commissioner or commissioners?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, the government has this matter under consideration and we hope to make an announcement in due course.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I trust that "in due course" will be as long as it usually is.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I am glad we have the support of the hon. member on this very important question.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** The Prime Minister knows he is misunderstanding me. He does not have my support.

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, I was merely going to say that, before the Prime Minister appoints a commissioner or commissioners, in the interest of all hon. members perhaps he should consult with the hon. member for York West.

## MANPOWER

## ATLANTIC PROVINCES—INQUIRY AS TO PROGRAMS TO ALLEVIATE UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, I have an urgent question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration arising out of the statement yesterday by the Minister of Finance that the government has some special programs to offset the forced unemployment in the Atlantic and other areas of Canada. Will the minister say what the nature of these special programs is and, if he

is not in a position to give a detailed statement now, will he take the first possible opportunity to make such a statement on motions?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The question is in order to the extent that the hon. member invites the minister to make a statement on motions.

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to make a statement when the circumstances justify it.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Approximately two months ago I posed this question and the minister gave me the same supercilious and senseless answer. Approximately 20 per cent of the people of Newfoundland are unemployed and about 16 per cent are unemployed in Atlantic Canada. Surely to God there has been time for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration to prepare a statement indicating what plans, if any, the government has to offset unemployment. This is a useless situation.

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question related to the request just put to the minister by the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate. Will the minister also deal with the situation that is developing as a result of the situation at Fairey Aviation of Canada and indicate what is to be done to offset this unemployment? We have heard absolutely nothing or very little in this regard. What are the department's plans for rehiring and relocating these several hundred employees?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will put a question onto the Order Paper I will be happy to give him all the details about departmental activities in this situation.

**Mr. Forrestall:** Is that going to put food in their stomachs or money in their pockets?

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## ACTION TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH WEST INDIES

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs who has left the House, but it is of such importance that the Prime Minister might deal with it. In view of the fact certain persons studying here