

Inquiries of the Ministry

a complete agreement has been reached with Quebec?

[English]

Mr. Sharp: I hope very soon, Mr. Speaker. May I be permitted to answer the other question that was asked. Although I know that calls for an expression of opinion, it is more than that. The Canadian government has affirmed the position that only the government of Canada speaks for this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Baldwin: It speaks very badly.

[Translation]

RIGHT OF PROVINCES TO SIGN CULTURAL AGREEMENTS WITH FRENCH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Does he recognize the right of the provincial government to sign cultural agreements with French-speaking countries, or does the federal government recognize—

Mr. Speaker: Order. It seems to me that the hon. member is inviting the minister to express an opinion and therefore I do not believe the question is in order.

[English]

AIRPORTS

LOCATION OF NEW FACILITY AT TORONTO

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Can he inform the House what locations have been considered or are being considered for the airport that is to be an auxiliary to Malton? Has the location been decided? If not, when will the minister be in a position to make an announcement?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in the House some weeks ago, no final decision has been made. Approximately four or five sites have been examined, and since this work will take three or four months to complete there will not be a decision until early autumn.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Battle River.

Mr. Downey: Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask a question, but since the appropriate minister is not here today I will defer it until tomorrow, if I may.

[Mr. Asselin.]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CYPRUS—INITIATIVE TO EFFECT SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE AND RECALL OF CANADIAN TROOPS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs about our troops stationed in Cyprus as part of the United Nations peace-keeping force. I understand our troops are not to be stationed there permanently but only until a political solution is found. Is the minister launching any initiative directly or through the United Nations with a view to effecting a settlement in Cyprus so that we can contemplate returning our troops home?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have had discussions from time to time with the two sides in this dispute. We are as anxious as the Leader of the Opposition to return the Canadian troops to this country. However, the Secretary General of the United Nations and others have urged on us the importance of keeping our troops there to assist, not only in the maintenance of peace on that island, but also in bringing about a peaceful outcome of the dispute.

PENSIONS

OLD AGE SECURITY—REPORTED REQUEST FOR INCREASE BY LIBERAL MEMBERS

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of reports that Liberal Members of Parliament are pressing the government for an immediate increase in the basic amount of the old age security pension, may I ask whether the government is giving consideration to this welcome request? Will the government act on it during the present session?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Red Deer.

PUBLIC SERVICE

INCREASE IN NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES—STATEMENTS INDICATING REDUCTION

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, may I address a question to the President of the Treasury Board? Inasmuch as the estimates for the coming year show that there will be 8,000 more employees in the Civil Service, how does the minister reconcile that fact with the statement of the