

Inquiries of the Ministry

ask again, does the minister endorse the compulsory retirement of Cape Breton miners at the age of 60?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, if you will allow me to answer, this plan has been approved—

Mr. Speaker: Order please. I allow the minister to answer only in his capacity as a minister. I must say at this point that I am not all that sure whether the question asked by the hon. member relates to the minister's—

An hon. Member: It may be.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I appreciate the suggestions made to me and the advice given to me by the hon. member for Edmonton West. In view of his suggestion I will recognize the minister in his ministerial capacity and permit him to answer the question.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the over-all plan to which the hon. member refers has been approved by the Government of Canada. Under the terms of the legislation it has also been submitted to the government of Nova Scotia, and to my knowledge there has been no objection from that quarter either.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Once again I must remind the minister that his answer is not in accordance with the facts, and this has not been approved by the Treasury Board.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members might agree with my suggestion of 15 or 20 minutes ago that we were entering into a debate. I gather the hon. member for York South has a supplementary question.

Mr. Lewis: Yes, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary question is to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and in relation to the answer which he gave, if he still remembers it. I want to ask him whether he has inquired whether the corporation has in fact passed a by-law providing for this early retirement, as required by section 18 of the relevant act? Has that by-law been submitted to the Treasury Board and has it received the approval of the board as provided by subsection 3 of that section?

Mr. Honey: Mr. Speaker, I do not personally have the knowledge to answer the question of my hon. friend. The minister will be in the

[Mr. MacInnis.]

house tomorrow. He was out of Ottawa yesterday on government business, but he is detailed to be here tomorrow and will deal with it at that time.

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): The minister of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion has been referred to. He is out in the corridor and I was wondering why he did not come into the chamber today. In that connection I point out in this matter that I have kept a record of the ministers' attendance. Out of 49 sitting days, ministers have been away 83 times when they should have been in the house doing their duty.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the hon. member for York South has a supplementary question.

Mr. Lewis: I want to pursue the matter raised by the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond and ensure that this house receives this information. The act does not provide for approval by the ministry or the cabinet. The act provides that early retirement must be made by a by-law of the corporation and by approval of that by-law by Treasury Board. Will the parliamentary secretary make the necessary inquiries and either he, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion or, God willing, even the President of the Treasury Board, may give us this answer tomorrow?

Mr. Honey: Yes, I will give that undertaking.

[Translation]

AIRPORTS

MONTREAL—LOCATION OF INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport.

Is he now in a position to give us a report on his meeting yesterday with Hon. Jean Lussier, Quebec Minister of Municipal Affairs, regarding the site of the future international airport?

[English]

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, we had a meeting yesterday afternoon and reviewed the positions of the two governments. A review of those two positions will now be reviewed by the two governments.