

Inquiries of the Ministry

My second question, Mr. Speaker, is the new jumbo hangar costing another \$21 million included in the special projects budget or is it part of the 1968 budget?

My third question, Mr. Speaker,—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Possibly the Minister of Transport would like to incorporate the supplementary questions in his jumbo statement to be made at some future date.

Mr. Hellyer: If I could answer, Mr. Speaker, the statement I have undertaken to obtain will answer the first, second, and possibly even a third question.

An hon. Member: He hasn't asked the third one yet.

INDUSTRY**DEVCO—COMPULSORY RETIREMENT OF MINERS**

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a question that should properly be put to the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development. In his absence, I will direct it to the Acting Prime Minister. Since Devco presented the government with an early retirement plan, can the Acting Prime Minister indicate to the house whether the government has sanctioned the idea of compulsory retirement for miners at the age of 60?

Mr. Russell C. Honey (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development): Mr. Speaker, maybe I could check that. I could refer it to the minister for an answer later.

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, with all due respect I think possibly this question could be answered by the Minister of Labour or the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. This is a very urgent matter. It has been brought to the attention of the government on several different occasions. The plan of compulsory retirement at the age of 60 has been before them for quite some time.

This is not a pension plan, it is an early retirement plan. The company keeps the books and maintains that these employees must remain on the roll subject to recall.

Some hon. Members: Order, order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I suggest the hon. member might be allowed to ask the question.

Mr. MacInnis: With all due respect to you, Mr. Speaker, I think it is very important that [Mr. Guay.]

someone inform the government as to what is going on, especially the backbenchers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Without prejudging that particular point of view—that may be the case but this is not the time to debate it—I invite the hon. member to put his question directly.

Mr. MacInnis: With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, I had put the question. I put the question a number of times over the past several months and I always get the same answer. Somebody refers it to somebody else. Is there no one on that side of the house who knows what is going on?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. MacInnis: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to take the time of the house to refer to precedents. This question has been put on a number of occasions to the responsible minister. I hold in my hand a copy of the roster to which ministers are supposed to adhere. The minister responsible for this particular question is not present tonight.

Some hon. Members: Order, order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member claims he has a point of privilege. I will hear it. Maybe he can be allowed to state it.

Mr. MacInnis: I don't want to hear these interjections and the calls for order from the other side of the house. It is the responsibility of the Chair to keep them in their place. It may be I can wait them out.

Some hon. Members: Order, order.

Mr. MacInnis: The bums and idiots have been at it all the time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. MacInnis: I still insist on finishing my question of privilege.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am prepared to hear the hon. member on a point of privilege. That is what I would like to hear.

Mr. MacInnis: The precedents have been established over the months in respect of this question. I realize when I put an oral question that no minister is compelled to answer, but they have been saying they will take it as notice and the answer will be provided. The miners who are being compulsorily retired in