

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the government is looking into the allegations contained in the hon. gentleman's question. I shall be glad to make a report as soon as the investigation is complete.

TRADECANADIAN CO-OPERATION WITH U.K. ON
BALANCE OF TRADE PROBLEMS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reid Scott (Danforth): Mr. Speaker, I have a question to address to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. It arises out of a statement attributed to Lord Brown, a joint minister of the British Board of Trade, in which he implied that the Canadian government is dragging its heels in co-operating to help Britain cure its balance of trade problems. In order to clear up any misunderstanding may I ask whether the government has received requests from Britain for co-operation and/or aid in curing its balance of trade problems. If so, what has been the nature of the government's response, if any, to such requests?

Mr. Speaker: May I suggest to the hon. member that this question may be put on the order paper.

Mr. Scott: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I have just attempted to raise a matter in which the integrity of the Canadian government has been raised and questioned. The Leader of the Opposition previously was permitted to ask a statistical question of the Minister of Finance. With all due respect to the Leader of the Opposition it seems to me that the rules of the house apply to all equally.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, since my name was mentioned I may say I was simply asking for details in respect of an answer given by the minister, and there was no question of derogation of the rules. The minister very properly answered it.

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): May I say that I was unable to hear most of the question, but I will read it in *Hansard* and provide an answer at the earliest opportunity.

PENSIONSINQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATION REGULATING
PRIVATE PLANS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the Minister of Finance. Is the minister [Mr. Southam.]

aware of the commitment made by his predecessor on December 18, 1964, and repeated on two or three occasions since, to the effect that the federal government would bring in legislation regulating the private pension plans that come under federal jurisdiction comparable to such legislation that some of the provinces have brought in? If so, is it the intention of the present minister to bring in such legislation?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): I always benefit from the diligence of my hon. friend. Now that he has brought this to my attention I will endeavour to give him an answer as soon as possible.

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): May I ask a supplementary question. I wonder if the minister would look at some material which has appeared in the *Toronto Star* in which statements were made to the effect that the Canadian Pacific has used its pension fund in an illegal way. I want to know whether the legislation could control that kind of action.

INDIAN AFFAIRSONTARIO—REPORTED EXTENSION OF
PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): I should like to ask a question of the minister of northern affairs arising out of a newspaper article this morning terming his attack on the minister of welfare for Ontario as a petulant and unfortunate attack. I do not wish to take up too much of the time of the house, but I would appreciate a brief answer from the minister. Does he agree with the policy of his government as indicated by the agreement signed earlier this month?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): The answer to that question is "Of course". The only reason I took the action I did was to allay the fears of the Indian people themselves along the very lines raised in this house yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): I want to ask the minister if the federal government has signed that agreement concerning Indians with the Ontario government?

Mr. Laing: No, sir. I gave an undertaking to the Indian people that they would have as much time as they wanted to acquaint themselves with the true conditions. I am hopeful that we will be able to sign the agreement in a relatively short time.