

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Pepin: The area development agency—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I realize the minister got carried away with the sound of his own voice, but as a supplementary question may I ask him if he is aware that the unemployment rate in all the Atlantic provinces is twice the national average, despite any statement he may make?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's question is argumentative.

AIRPORTS**SAINT JOHN, N.B.—POSSIBILITY OF MEETING WITH CITY OFFICIALS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Further to the still controversial matter of the sale of the Saint John airport has the minister been able to arrange a meeting with the city of Saint John officials and, if so, when and where?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I regret to say that I have not yet been able to make these arrangements, but I am hoping to do so at a very early date. Perhaps I might be permitted to say that the government wants to take over this airport and, as I indicated the other day, there is no thought of any change in basic plans.

Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert): As a supplementary question, in view of the fact that this matter has been approved in principle and, if it is delayed, will work a tremendous hardship on the city of Saint John and even on the whole province of New Brunswick, will the minister recommend that this small amount be included in the supplementary estimates?

Mr. Pickersgill: I would think, sir, I would be transgressing the rules of the house if I attempted to answer that question in any way.

WATER RESOURCES**SUGGESTED STUDY BY ENGINEERING BODY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. My [Mr. Speaker.]

question is based on a decision by an important group of Canadians who are concerned about Canada's natural resources. Has the minister received a brief from the Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada urging a 15 year study of Canada's water resources, estimated to cost about \$200 million? If so, would the minister inform the house of his response to these interesting proposals?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I fail to see the immediate urgency of the question. I suggest to the hon. member that it ought to be placed on the order paper.

[Translation]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**SUGGESTED SHORTAGE OF BILINGUAL OFFICERS ON PARLIAMENT HILL**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Solicitor General as minister responsible for the R.C.M.P.

In view of the numerous complaints from Quebec citizens visiting parliament hill that members of the R.C.M.P. on the hill cannot speak a word of French nor give information in French, could the minister investigate and insist that the R.C.M.P. commissioner station bilingual officers on the hill?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has made representations which will undoubtedly be noted by the minister, but I do not think the question in its present form is in order.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, may I rephrase my question so that it will be in order?

Mr. Speaker: Hardly.

CANADIAN CONSTITUTION**POSSIBILITY OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATING WITH FOREIGN POWER**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Auguste Choquette (Loibinière): Mr. Speaker, I understand that the hon. member for Lapointe has not yet swallowed his parking ticket.

I wish to put a question to the Minister of Justice. I would like to ask him, as a result of the speech delivered yesterday by a member of the provincial cabinet, Mr. Marcel Masse, of Quebec, stating that he would ensure through constitutional provisions the power of