

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Hon. George C. Nowlan (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that the hon. member feels the finger of approaching fate resting so heavily on his shoulders, but we will remember his way of asking questions when he is not here in the house in the years after the election. So far as the answer to the question is concerned, there have been few books banned by the present minister. They are largely books banned by my predecessor in office. The list is very long. I am told by my departmental officials that we have gone through 1955, 1956 and half of 1957, but having got to 1957 the list will be very short from then on and I hope it will be available when parliament reassembles.

**DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS****ATLANTIC PROVINCES—FEASIBILITY STUDIES OF PUBLIC PROJECTS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. R. C. Coates (Cumberland):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. In view of the recent article in the *Atlantic Advocate* referring to the possibility of a development fund for the Atlantic provinces and in view of the recommendation, among other things, of feasibility studies of public projects in the Atlantic provinces, does the Prime Minister have any comment to make?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman gave me notice of his question. The government is now studying this matter and is giving consideration to the establishment of a federal Atlantic development board which would be empowered to examine projects recommended by provincial governments or other parties, and to give assistance and recommend appropriate plans to the government.

**CIVIL DEFENCE****INQUIRY AS TO RECRUITING PROGRAM FOR SURVIVAL COURSE**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Has the minister's attention been drawn to the report that the army has only been able to recruit approximately 15,000 of the 25,000 people required for the fourth civil survival course? If so, can he advise the house what the reasons are for this failure to attract the required number of men?

**Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the number of people who had enlisted for the fourth and last of the survival courses was some 16,000 odd at

the close of business on Monday, I believe. What the number will be when recruitment for this course ends tomorrow, which I believe is the last day, I do not know. I think I indicated some time earlier it was always anticipated that there might be some difficulty in securing 25,000, the objective of each course, as far as the fourth course is concerned.

**COAL****MARITIME PROVINCES—FURTHER UTILIZATION BY LOCAL INDUSTRIES**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. J. Robichaud (Gloucester):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Now that the Prime Minister has been allowed a number of days to give some thought to the matter, can he advise the house if he is prepared to table the brief presented to him on March 7 by the premiers of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick on the expansion of resource development in the Atlantic region through the utilization of maritime coal?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think I have anything to add to what has already been said in that connection.

**Mr. Robichaud:** A supplementary question. Can the Prime Minister assure the house that the brief has been brought to the attention of the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys and the members of the dominion coal board?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, the answer to the last question will apply to this one too.

**Mr. Robichaud:** No answer.

[Later:]

**Mr. Robichaud:** Before the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys leaves the chamber, may I direct a question to him. Can the minister advise the house if a brief sent to the Prime Minister and presented on March 7 by the premiers of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick has been brought to his attention, and if so on what date?

**Hon. Jacques Flynn (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys):** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Robichaud:** On what date?

**Mr. Flynn:** This is statistical information, and if the hon. member wants to put a question on the order paper he will receive an answer.