

Inquiries of the Ministry

precautions are adequate. If we are satisfied that they are, we will accept them; if we are not so satisfied, we will protest.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to hon. members that we have had a number of supplementary questions on this subject and that we should go on to another matter. If we have time, perhaps we can return to the very important matter raised by many hon. members.

CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

REQUEST BY UNION OFFICIAL FOR APOLOGY BY MINISTER

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Is he in receipt of a communication from the general representative of the CB of RT, Cape Breton, Mr. Gilbert MacIntyre, taking exception to a recent statement the minister made in the House regarding this union and asking for an official apology and, if so, can he advise what consideration he has given to the request?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I received such a letter, and its contents are based on false assumptions. When the hon. member himself mentioned the name of a union, on January 27, it was not Local 510, but the retired coal miners pensioners union and that is the question to which I replied. There was never any reference to Local 510 in my reply, and I owe nobody any apologies, it was merely a question of misinterpreted facts.

[English]

Mr. Muir: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The minister's statement is completely erroneous. He has accused me of something of which I am not guilty. I did refer to local 510 of the CB of RT, and with your indulgence I should like to go further into this matter at the time of adjournment.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I point out that the question put on January 27 by the hon. member was as follows:

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the first minister. Has the right hon. gentleman received a written complaint from the retired coal miners pensioners union at Sydney—

[Mr. Sharp.]

The hon. member did not refer to local 510. This is the answer to his question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister has raised a question of privilege and the hon. member has raised a point of order and given notice that he will pose the question again at the time of adjournment. I suggest that the matter be allowed to rest there for the time being.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): With all due respect to you, sir—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is the hon. member rising on a question of privilege?

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): I am rising on a question of privilege, sir. If the minister will look at the appropriate part of *Hansard* he will see that I did not refer the question to the Prime Minister. The matter to which I had reference was raised on another day. On that occasion the minister went on to refer to a group of old men, superannuated miners, pensioners and so on. I then pointed out to him that it was the union local 510 of the CB of RT whose employees are at present employed in the coal mine in Cape Breton for which the minister is responsible, in case he does not know. I suggest that he correct himself on the point he has raised regarding what I have been talking about. When I posed the question to the minister in this House it was on another day. I shall give him the appropriate pages in *Hansard* but I should still like to be heard on the late show.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I appreciate that the hon. member still wants to consider the matter at the time of adjournment. I have respectfully suggested to the minister and the hon. member that this appears to be a very interesting point of debate. I certainly do not think it should be pursued as a question of privilege at this time.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FOR SUBSTANTIAL NOTICE OF LAY-OFFS

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker following the announcement by General Motors of Canada today that a number of employees, many with up to 17 years seniority, will be laid off at Oshawa on Friday after only a period of two days notice, I should like to ask the Minister of Labour