

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, perhaps I worded my question badly. I was not asking for any legal opinion. I was asking the Parliamentary Secretary whether he could tell the house under what authority the corporation sent out the notices, and whether authority had been sought from the minister, the government or the Treasury Board before those notices went out?

**Mr. Honey:** Mr. Speaker, the notices to which my hon. friend refers were in fact letters to the employees in question advising them of the proposed plans. It was I think evident from reading the letters that this was contingent upon approval of Treasury Board. They were sent as a matter of courtesy only, so that the best possible notice could be given the employees of the intention of Devco. There is no statutory or other requirement that such notice be given; it is entirely a matter of courtesy.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I do not know how the rules will permit me to go about informing the minister, the Prime Minister and the parliamentary secretary that the information they are now giving the house is not in accord with the facts. All they need do is read the letter put out by Devco—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Prince Albert.

[Later:]

**Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order regarding information given to the house by the government about letters concerning employees of the Devco corporation dated March 26 in which the statement is made that the pre-retirement leave question has been approved by the government. This is a complete contradiction to the facts, and I once again ask the Prime Minister to stop this discrimination.

**GRAIN****WHEAT—SUPPORT PRICE AND TWO-PRICE SYSTEM**

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Acting Minister of Agriculture. In view of the statement he made in Saskatoon that farmers need a strong voice to plead their case I should like to know what the voice is of the Acting Minister of Agriculture in connection with the request of the government of Saskatchewan and the legislature for a support price on export wheat and a two-price

[Mr. Speaker.]

system. In view of his statement in Saskatoon that it needs a strong man to speak out for western farmers will the minister now let the house know what the situation is.

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** I assume the minister knows the position in which I find myself now is that my voice is exercised in consultation with my colleagues and when there is government policy to be announced it will be announced.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I apologize for accepting his own view, that his was a strong voice.

**LABOUR CONDITIONS****UNEMPLOYMENT IN ATLANTIC AREA**

**Mr. Charles H. Thomas (Moncton):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, but in the minister's absence I should like to direct it to the Prime Minister. Since the latest D.B.S. figures show that unemployment again increased in the Atlantic area, that the number of employed people decreased during the month of March and that 10.8 per cent of the labour force in the Atlantic area is now unemployed, what steps has the government taken to alleviate this critical situation in the Atlantic area?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. It would seem that the hon. member has restated a question asked in about the same terms yesterday.

**Mr. Thomas (Moncton):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might rephrase the question. Can the Prime Minister give the house any indication as to when the industrial incentive legislation as announced in Halifax Wednesday night by the Deputy Minister of Regional Economic Expansion will be introduced in the house.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** The member might wish to add to his statistics that since last June the unemployment figures have fallen from 5.4 per cent to 4.2 per cent.

**Mr. MacEwan:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the Prime Minister aware—

**Mr. Forrestall:** You don't care about it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Has the hon. member a supplementary?

**Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Central Nova):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether the