

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

at least the provinces will treat their own constituents fairly in this matter.

**Mr. Stanfield:** My last supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, is this. Does the Minister of Finance really consider he is in a position to judge whether a province is treating its people fairly?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The last question naturally is not in order.

**ATLANTIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD****INQUIRY AS TO POSSIBLE CHANGE IN STATUS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development, and ask him whether he is in a position to inform the house about the plans he has made with regard to the function and place of the Atlantic Development Board.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Forestry and Rural Development):** Mr. Speaker, if the constitution and the role of the Atlantic Provinces Development Board are to be modified, this will be done when the bill to create the department is examined.

[*English*]

**Mr. Lewis:** A supplementary question. In view of the general statement the minister is reported to have made last night in Halifax, I think, is the minister in a position to tell this house something I have asked him on previous occasions, namely what establishments he is setting up and what plans are in progress for dealing with regional disparity, so that members of this parliament may know what is in store in this field?

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Mr. Speaker, that question is of such a general nature that it would be simpler, in my opinion, for me to send a copy of my speech to the hon. member for York South. He will then understand what it is all about.

[*English*]

**Mr. Lewis:** I have a further supplementary question. In view of the fact that the issue is obviously very important, and my reading of the minister's speech last night will not help members of this house to know what plans there are to deal with the basic problem of regional disparity, when will the minister be

[Mr. Benson.]

in a position to tell parliament what his plans are?

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Mr. Speaker, as soon as we are in a position to introduce in the house a bill or legislation creating the new department, we will be able to state clearly what we intend to do.

[*English*]

**Mr. Lewis:** A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister inform the house when that date will be; this year, next year or some time in the far future?

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Mr. Speaker, the answer depends in part on the members opposite; so, I cannot tell.

[*English*]

**RESEARCH****REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL AID TO INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker. Since both the president of the National Research Council and the President of the Treasury Board, who of course until recently was minister of industry, have recently stated publicly they feel Canada must greatly increase its volume of industrial research in order to remain a competitive industrial nation, does the government plan in the near future to introduce measures which will induce this necessary and very large increase in industrial research in Canada?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman knows, of course, of the great help we are giving to industrial research in Canada at the moment through grants.

**Mr. Hees:** But, Mr. Speaker, is the minister not aware that both the president of the National Research Council and his colleague the President of the Treasury Board have said in so many words that what we are presently doing is not nearly enough to induce this necessary increase in industrial research?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Hees:** I suggest that the minister should better inform himself.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.