

Inquiries of the Ministry

of using new icebreaking techniques to assist in extending the season. That matter has been under study by the department for some time and is one of the more interesting research projects that we now have under way.

PUBLIC SERVICE**SUPERANNUATED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES—
REQUEST FOR INCREASED PENSIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Is the government giving consideration to taking early action to increase the pensions of retired civil servants as recommended unanimously by a joint committee of the last parliament?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): This matter is under continuing consideration by the government. No decision in the matter has been made at this time.

Mr. Knowles: May we expect a decision on the matter in the next few weeks?

Mr. Benson: In due course, Mr. Speaker.

RESEARCH**USE OF SUGGESTED SITE FOR PROPOSED
TELESCOPE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Bruce Howard (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. What are the government's plans regarding the future use of the Mount Kobau site and the Queen Elizabeth observatory in British Columbia?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, we are consulting universities, government departments and our own astronomers have under very serious consideration a more useful application for this site. Investigations are not yet complete but every effort will be made to find a valid and useful application for it.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister whether he would be prepared to make public these studies by scientists into this program and its discontinuance. Will he make those studies public?

[Mr. Hellyer.]

Mr. Greene: I will consider the hon. member's suggestion.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister whether he does not think it essential to keep this instrument in service in order to keep in touch with the high cost of living.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**NATO—REVIEW OF POSITION FOLLOWING
OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, in view of the unrest in western Europe over the rape of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet union I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether any action has been taken by the Canadian government to strengthen our commitment to NATO in the interest of restoring world peace?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian government continues to be a member of NATO and is participating in all the discussions which are taking place in respect of the implications of the invasion of Czechoslovakia. Our position in that respect remains unchanged.

IMMIGRATION**STEPS TO ASSIST REFUGEES FROM
CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, has the Canadian government made arrangements with our embassies in Europe to make sure that the Czechoslovakian people who want to come to Canada may do so easily?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I could answer that question in part, but I think it would be more properly directed to the minister of immigration.

Mr. Fairweather: I would like an answer, and I do not really care who gives it.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, let me assure my hon. friend that special arrangements have been made with all our immigration officers in Europe to treat Czechoslovakian refugees on a priority basis. A