

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, within two weeks of what date?

**Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan):** Mr. Speaker, I prefer not to tie myself down at this time.

PENSIONS FOR FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR—POSITION OF MINISTER IF CABINET FAILS TO SUPPORT MEASURE

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs? As the cabinet has not supported the minister in his intentions to introduce legislation with regard to prisoners of war, and I should say that everybody realizes the minister's concern, what will his position be in the cabinet if the cabinet will not support him in his intentions?

**Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, with regard to my position in the cabinet, I am the one who made the presentation to cabinet and when making my presentation, it was quite obvious what my intentions were.

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### ENERGY

PRODUCTION OF OIL FROM COAL—REQUEST FOR REPORT OF GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS PLAN

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. As stated in December, the plant of the South African coal, oil and gas corporation is producing petrol, oil and gas from coal. A second plant is now into production. It could eventually lead that country toward greater self-sufficiency in oil from coal. The minister promised, when I first asked a similar question in December, to send an expert to South Africa, to check on this process. I should like to know if this has been done. If so, would the minister tell the House what he has learned and if he is contemplating the construction at an early date of such a plant in Nova Scotia, in order to use our coal, ease our unemployment and help to make us more self-sufficient in oil.

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I think it is too soon to say that we have reached the point where we can make a decision with respect to such a plant. I can tell the hon. member that members of my department have been to South Africa. They are familiar with the technology and have been looking at other technologies. They have been talking to the various coal-producing provinces concerned, to the Canadian Coal Association and to various companies within the association trying to interest them in a co-operative approach to new coal technologies.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Have you talked to the CTV people yet?

[Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan).]

### REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO NEW PLANS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF CAPE BRETON

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. I regret not having given him notice; I think he is familiar with the problem, because he visited Cape Breton Island some weeks ago. As the residents of Cape Breton Island are suffering economically from the lack of jobs on the island, is the minister, with his departmental officials, formulating new plans for economic development on the island?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member said himself, there have been recent consultations between the representatives of the Sydney area, members of the provincial government and representatives of my own department. During that meeting, they naturally analyzed the situation with regard to unemployment in Cape Breton and attempted to set up, by creating a special committee, a program to be implemented quickly and remedy the difficult situation in which the citizens of that area now find themselves. I know discussions are being pursued and we can hope that, in the near future, the various levels of government will be in a position to make concrete proposals with a view to setting up a program, at least on a temporary basis for the time being, to face present difficulties. But, with regard to a long term development program to create jobs on a permanent basis, the hon. member knows full well that the Department of Regional Economic Expansion is now in the process of studying jointly with the provincial government a number of very important industrial files. We still hope that the time will come soon when we will be in a position to give more specific information in this regard.

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### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POSSIBLE RECOGNITION OF NEW GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA

**Mr. Claude-André Lachance (Lafontaine-Rosemont):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs but, in his absence, I shall direct it to his parliamentary secretary.

In the light of recent events in Angola, and more particularly the recognition of the People's Republic of Angola by the OUA and the effective control the MPLA seems to have on virtually the whole territory, does the minister or the parliamentary secretary consider recommending, in the very near future, recognition of the MPLA as the legitimate government in Angola?

**Miss Monique Bégin (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I think that the Secretary of State for External Affairs has clearly established the position of Canada as regards the recognition of Angola, in his public statement of January 20. According to the news, a faction seems to progress in the country, but it remains that the rules governing recognition of the state of Angola did not change and that they