

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

and comments which have just been made by the hon. member for Skeena, and that the matter be allowed to stand in the meantime.

[Translation]

**VACANCIES**

**Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot):** Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice, pursuant to section 10 of the House of Commons Act, that a vacancy has occurred in the representation of the House of Commons for the electoral district of Hull, in the province of Quebec, by reason of the death of Mr. Alexis Caron, the member therefor.

[English]

**Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice pursuant to section 10 of the House of Commons Act that a vacancy has occurred in the representation of the House of Commons for the electoral district of Sudbury, in the province of Ontario, by reason of the death of Mr. David Rodger Mitchell, the member therefor.

**THE MINISTRY****REPORTED STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE**

On the orders of the day:

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** I wish to ask the Prime Minister whether in a reported statement of the Secretary of State—certain matters were averred by her regarding the return, as it were, of the prodigal son, the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. Gordon)—she was speaking government policy when she said:

I always thought he was the glue who made us a team...

We were just a collection of individuals before he came back into the cabinet.

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I think I shall let the Secretary of State deal with the matter herself on her return.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** It is a sticky question. I hope the minister will be able to deal with it.

**COAL****CAPE BRETON—LEGISLATION RESPECTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister a question about the announcement he made [Mr. Speaker.]

on December 29 concerning the program for assisting the coal industry in Cape Breton. Is it the government's intention to bring down legislation dealing with the matter at the present session, or is that being left until the new session later in 1967?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, we hope the negotiations will have been concluded in time to bring down legislation dealing with that part of the agreement which requires legislation. We hope that will be during this session.

**Mr. Douglas:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Prime Minister if, prior to that, there will be any opportunity for the government to report on the program, or if there will be any discussion of the various proposals contained in the Prime Minister's statement of December 29.

**Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure now whether there would be that opportunity, but I shall look into that point.

**NATURAL GAS****ACTION OF U.S. COMMISSION RESPECTING PROPOSED PIPE LINE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Has he any word regarding the outcome of the federal power commission hearings and the application of Trans-Canada Pipe Lines that the commission has been considering in recent weeks?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** The case is progressing interestingly. The examiner will receive written arguments—I think it is on the 17th of this month—and will then hear oral presentation on the 24th if my memory is correct. We hope this means that he will then be in a position to make a decision with respect to the future of this application.

[Later:]

Mr. Speaker, I did not elaborate sufficiently in my answer to the hon. member for Red Deer a moment ago, and with your permission I will add to what I said.

The federal power commission by an order of December 23 remanded the proceedings to the presiding examiner, with the direction that there be incorporated in the record the documents tabled in this house with regard to