

have already said, in reply to a similar question, that a white paper was being prepared and as soon as it is ready, it will be submitted to the appropriate committee of this house.

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

ANNIVERSARY OF BIRTHDAY OF ROBERT BURNS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): I have a question I want to ask the Prime Minister. Do the Prime Minister and the government fully appreciate the fact that today is the anniversary of the birth of a most illustrious member of one of our founding races? I refer to Robert Burns.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Begorra, I do, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF PRIME MINISTER OF BARBADOS

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I wonder if I might be permitted to call the attention of Your Honour and the house to the presence in the gallery of very distinguished visitors, the Prime Minister of Barbados and two of his colleagues, who are here on a visit. As you know, Mr. Speaker, relations between our countries are close and friendly and we hope that they will become even friendlier.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

PENSIONS

APPLICATION OF PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION TO CERTAIN COMPANIES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the course of some questioning about the government's intention concerning legislation regulating private pension plans, the hon. member for Winnipeg North asked me whether consideration was being given to the question as to whether companies such as the Canadian Pacific and Canadian National, which have employees in the provinces which have passed legislation in this regard, will be covered by that legislation or if those employees will have to wait for the implementation of federal legislation. I am advised, Mr. Speaker, that provincial legislation will not apply to these companies.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): May I ask a supplementary question. In view of the information the minister has given us now, may we expect early action by the federal government with regard to its commitment in this area?

Mr. Sharp: There is such a large number of bills of urgent importance on the order paper, Mr. Speaker, that I would not want to say we intend to introduce this legislation within a few weeks or even the next few months.

Mr. Knowles: Does the minister not realize that to the people concerned this is very urgent?

[Translation]

CENTRAL MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

QUEBEC—PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE FOR NORTHWESTERN AREA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Industry.

Does he intend to recommend that an official of the national housing and mortgage corporation be appointed permanently in Rouyn to serve all the Quebec northwest?

Mr. Speaker: May I suggest to the hon. member for Villeneuve to put his question on the order paper?

AIRPORTS

SHERBROOKE—INQUIRY AS TO DEVELOPMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Maurice Allard (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport.

Does the Minister intend to designate the Sherbrooke airport in addition to St. Hubert airport to handle the increased air traffic, commercial as well as private, in connection with the world fair?

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): On the order paper.

Mr. Speaker: I know how urgent that question is, but may I suggest to the hon. member to put it on the order paper?

CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

REPORTED SPEECH BY PRIVY COUNCIL PRESIDENT RESPECTING REPATRIATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the President of the Privy Council.