

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might have the minister's reply to that question.

Mr. Laing: I would be very surprised if this was a question I had to answer or, indeed, one that was proper.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Another Speaker.

Mr. Laing: The preparation of the bill has been in hand for some time, and more than one draft has been printed.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, may I direct a further question to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources and ask him whether any of the drafts of the bills effecting amendments to the Yukon Act and the Northwest Territories Act, to which he has referred, have received distribution outside the members of this house or the members of his department?

Mr. Laing: Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I ask the minister specifically have copies of this bill, that has not been tabled in the house, been placed in the hands of members of the Yukon council, and are they at the moment—

Mr. Nielsen: The Northwest Territories council.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The Northwest Territories council. I beg your pardon, Mr. Speaker; I know that I have to be that specific to get the truth. Is it not a fact that there has been a completely wrong course followed here, and that the bill has been placed in the hands of these council members before being tabled in the house?

Mr. Laing: I would be surprised to know this. I shall make inquiries.

Mr. Diefenbaker: All right. You will find it is true.

AIR CANADA**WINNIPEG—REPORT OF INQUIRY RESPECTING MAINTENANCE BASE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Can he tell us whether the report of the Thompson inquiry concerning the Air Canada maintenance and overhaul base at Winnipeg has been received and, if so, when it will be published?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have been so scrupulous to avoid any suggestion of interference with the commission that I have not even communicated with the commissioner about the date at which the report will be received, but rumour tells me it will be quite soon.

PENSIONS**INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATION REGULATING PRIVATE PLANS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, on Friday the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre asked me a question about the government's intention concerning legislation relating to private pension plans. In answer may I say to him that the situation remains as it was when my predecessor answered a similar question on March 10. The progress of the provinces in adopting legislation along these lines has been slower than was then anticipated, and we are taking this into account in preparing our own legislation.

He also asked me about the content of the legislation. I think it would be out of place for me to endeavour to answer a question of that kind at this stage, or to go beyond what was indicated by the former Minister of Finance, who described the general nature of the bill to the hon. member on that same date, March 10, and in a subsequent answer to question No. 2871.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I should like to ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Do I understand from what the minister has just said that federal legislation in this field will have to wait until all the provinces have adopted such legislation?

Mr. Sharp: No, that is not the situation, Mr. Speaker. We are going ahead with the preparation of our legislation, but because of the relative slowness of the provinces in dealing with theirs, and the desire of the federal government to propose legislation of a similar character, the drafting of our legislation has been affected.

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance whether consideration was given to the question as to whether companies such as the C.P.R. and the C.N.R., which have employees in provinces which have passed legislation, will be covered by that legislation, or whether those companies and their employees will have to wait for the implementation of federal legislation.