

Inquiries of the Ministry

inside the house, but is a matter which arises outside the house. We cannot go back into the past history of all hon. members at the present time. At the time these events took place the hon. member was not a member of parliament, and for this and several other reasons I must declare the question out of order.

Mr. Horner (Acadia): I would agree with that, Mr. Speaker, but I would like to point out that at that time he was representing the taxpayers on the city council, which is nearly as bad.

INDUSTRYCONSIDERATION OF FRENCH CANADIANS IN
DEPARTMENTAL APPOINTMENTS

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gerard Chapdelaine (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Industry a question?

Since a high position recently became vacant in his department, could the minister state whether he intends to take into consideration the fact that some French Canadians have the required qualifications to fill that vacancy?

[*Text*]

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

TRENTON, N.S.—REQUEST FOR ORDER FOR
RAILWAY CARS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Pictou): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Labour if he is now in a position to answer the question I asked him on Monday last?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes, and the requests that were contained in this communication will receive and are receiving careful consideration.

PUBLIC WORKSREPORTED CONTRAVENTION OF ELECTION ACT BY
MINISTER'S ASSISTANT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. Is the minister aware that his executive assistant, the former member for Rimouski, is listed in sessional paper No. 1B, tabled by the Secretary of State, as having broken the law in that he failed to keep certain sections of the Canada Elections Act? Will the minister look into this before the Minister of Justice or the Secretary of State lays charges against him?

[Mr. Speaker.]

Hon. J. P. Deschatelets (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of this. I am going to inquire and report later on.

SUPPLY

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of supply.

LACK OF MEASURES TO DEAL WITH
UNEMPLOYMENT

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, at this time when there is an opportunity for the opposition to move a motion of non-confidence, I rise to bring your attention and that of all hon. members to a very serious matter. It may be that the succession of balmy days and unseasonable warm weather of the past few weeks has lulled some of the members of the treasury benches into ignoring this situation, and has dimmed their eyes to the fact that winter is just around the corner. As various members of the government go about their business in the bull ring, down in Washington, or possibly New Orleans and elsewhere—wherever duty calls them—it may be they have forgotten winter brings special problems in this country.

We have waited for quite a number of weeks, indeed months, to see what positive and definite action the government was preparing to take in respect of this matter. We are now in the first week of November, and the government has failed and is not prepared to deal with winter unemployment, or indeed with unemployment as a whole. It has become quite evident that since the government took office it has failed to deal effectively with this very serious problem. It has not brought forward any measure that would have an immediate effect upon winter unemployment, or unemployment as a whole.

During two successive election campaigns members of the government promised full employment. They promised this when they were in opposition also, and I refer first to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, who said at Inkster, Manitoba, on February 25, 1963, that, "the biggest domestic issue is unemployment." Again, speaking at Montreal on March 6, 1963, he said:

The first objective of a Liberal government would be to initiate a mass program of economic development to increase income, expand social progress and to reduce unemployment which he described as the most serious problem facing the country today.

Mr. Benidickson: It has gone down.

Mr. Starr: This was one of the prime concerns of the members who now occupy the treasury benches. The Minister of Finance, speaking on this subject at Windsor, Ontario, on February 28, 1963, said: