

it is not a problem which lies wholly within the control of the Canadian government.

Mr. Hees: I am sure the minister will agree that it does fall within the responsibility of the government. May I therefore ask the minister again whether the government intends to take immediate steps to re-establish confidence in this method of government financing?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is reiterating a question he has already asked.

[Translation]

[Later:]

Mr. J.-A. Mongrain (Trois-Rivières): Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the Minister of Finance.

In view of the newspaper reports this morning that the president of a Canadian bank called the financial policy of the government a "massive swindle", I should like to ask the minister, first, whether he is aware of this very serious charge and, secondly, whether he intends to refute it publicly as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker: I think the question is out of order.

Mr. Mongrain: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY CALGARY—PROTESTS RESPECTING SHOP LAY-OFFS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. R. Ballard (Calgary South): My question is directed to the Prime Minister or to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Has the Prime Minister or the minister received protests from Canadian Pacific Railway federated trade union officials in Calgary with reference to the lay-off this week of 400 men from the city's C.P.R. terminal shops?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): I am not aware of any. I will check with the department to find out whether such a protest has been received.

Mr. Ballard: Would the minister of manpower investigate this matter together with his officials in the manpower office at Calgary, with the object of getting the C.P.R. to find alternative employment for these men?

Inquiries of the Ministry

FORESTRY

INQUIRY AS TO RESTORATION OF DOMINION-PROVINCIAL AGREEMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I wish to address a question to the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development. In view of the charge made by Mr. D. I. Crossley, president of the Canadian Institute of Foresters at their annual meeting at the Chateau Laurier hotel yesterday that the government is inactive in the face of an urgent need to increase forest productivity, and that it has resisted all attempts to restore the federal-provincial forestry agreements terminated over a year ago, can the minister inform the house what are the government's intentions with respect to these agreements?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have the impression that this question is of such a general nature as to require the minister to make a statement on motions, and for this reason I suggest to the hon. member that his question should not be asked at this time.

Mr. Herridge: With all respect Mr. Speaker, there is an important conference taking place in Ottawa now, and those attending are most concerned about federal-provincial agreements with respect to forestry development in this country. The question is urgent from their point of view, and I have been requested by several good sources to ask this question.

Hon. Maurice Sauvé (Minister of Forestry and Rural Development): These agreements came to an end on March 31, 1967, and no consideration is being given to their re-establishment.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

MEDICARE—REPORTED STATEMENT BY N.B. PREMIER

On the orders of the day:

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): I should like to ask the right hon. the Prime Minister whether he is in a position today to answer the question I asked him yesterday with regard to a reported statement by Premier Robichaud, in connection with discussions between the federal and provincial governments on the subject of medicare.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. I have made inquiries to find out whether such a statement was made, and in what terms. I have not yet received the results of those inquiries. As soon as I do I shall be in a position to give an answer.