

has either misled the house today or else he misled the house during the debate on the Cape Breton Development Corporation. I should like to explain why I think this to be the case.

Along with members of the New Democratic party I advocated the takeover of Sydney Steel by the Cape Breton Development Corporation. We pressed the matter in this chamber, and on that occasion the statement was made, not only by the Minister of National Health and Welfare but by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, that the legislation was broad enough to cover almost any contingency, including the takeover of Cape Breton steel. I hear the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond say "That is right". He has a better memory, I think, than has the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In those circumstances the onus is upon the minister to clarify the situation. Either he misled the house today or he did so a few weeks ago when we discussed this important item. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources said the legislation was broad enough to cover anything, even the objective desired by the hon. member for Cape Breton—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** I think we should hear from the Minister of National Health and Welfare with regard to this matter.

**Mr. MacEachen:** I do not wish to pursue this question very far, because there is no question of privilege and there is no inconsistency between the position I am taking today and the one I took on the bill. When hon. members opposite, including members of the N.D.P., were arguing that the Cape Breton Development Corporation should own and operate this mill I said I agreed this was a capability and a possibility under that law. That is true; no one disputes it. I have also said that I do not regard this as an appropriate function of the corporation.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sure the exchange which has taken place between the hon. members and the minister has established the correctness of the ruling I made earlier, that there was no question of privilege. I will not take the time of members by reading citation 113 of Beauchesne's fourth edition, except perhaps for the first sentence. No; I will not even read the first sentence.

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### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

#### FINANCE

##### RECOMMENDATION THAT PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES BE TAXED

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister or any member of the government received representations from the Royal Canadian Legion or other veterans organizations strongly protesting the recommendations of the Carter commission that pensions and allowances under the Pension Act become taxable? If so, what was the response?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I do not think that question is in order at this time.

#### HOUSING

##### INQUIRY AS TO MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATION AT CONFERENCE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Hubert Badanai (Fort William):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour in his capacity as the minister responsible for Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. I wish to ask whether the province of Ontario or any other province has indicated that it will bring representatives of municipalities to the federal-provincial conference on housing.

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I shall have to inquire about what is to be done by the province of Ontario. With respect to the province where I live, I can say definitely that they will have the president of the union of British Columbia municipalities as a member of their delegation. I shall need to make inquiries about the intentions of other provinces.

#### AGRICULTURE

##### EFFECT OF CURRENCY DEVALUATION ON EXPORTS TO U.K.

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture and ask him whether now or at an early date, preferably now, he can report to the house on the probable effects of the devaluation of the pound on our agricultural products other than wheat. I exempt wheat at this time because the Acting Minister of Trade and Commerce gave a preliminary report in that regard.