

Inquiries of the Ministry

before the announcement was made in the house. Regulations have been drafted and if they have not yet gone to the cabinet for consideration, they will be submitted within the next day or two.

Mr. Lewis: May I ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker? Perhaps I should know—and I apologize if I should and do not—but would the minister inform the house whether unemployed people would have to exhaust their supplementary unemployment benefits before becoming entitled to the transitional assistance benefits under the regulations which have been drafted.

Mr. Nicholson: The amended regulations I hope will be published within a matter of a few days. I do not think answering this question before then, and having an extended debate on it, would be fitting on the orders of the day, at least until the regulations have been published.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**MERCANTILE BANK—INTERFERENCE BY
U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I should like to ask whether or not the Canadian government made any protest to the United States state department against the interference with Canadian policies relating to the operations of the Mercantile Bank.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there have been of course very full discussions between the two governments. The last note of the state department which was received on November 11, will shortly be replied to.

IMMIGRATION**VISITING PRIVILEGES OF CENTRAL
EUROPEANS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the large number of rejections of applications for visiting privileges in Canada by people from central European countries, particularly countries such as Poland, I should like to ask the minister whether this is as a result of government policy or whether it is based on the minister's prerogative.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I think we are applying exactly the same policy which has been applied for years and years.

FINANCE**LEGISLATION RESPECTING DEPOSIT
INSURANCE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Perth): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Finance. Some time ago he intimated to the house that he was hopeful that his deposit insurance legislation would be given first reading before the recess. Apparently this has been impossible, but I wonder whether the minister could give us any further information on this.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I received the bill in proper form, and therefore I can assure the house that it will be on the order paper right at the resumption of the session.

PUBLIC SERVICE**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF COMMITTEE TO
CONSIDER RETIREMENT PENSIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the President of the Treasury Board would not mind if I ask this question of the government house leader. In view of the fact that all of us seem to be agreed to the proposition of amending the terms of reference of the joint committee on the public service to deal with the matter of the pensions of retired civil servants, can the house leader say how soon this will be attended to.

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might answer the question. This government, of course, always has been vitally concerned with the welfare of civil servants and retired civil servants. As I have indicated, we intend to proceed with this matter as soon as I am persuaded that a few other people would allow it to go through the house without debate.

Mr. Knowles: Is the minister not aware that those concerned are prepared to let it go through the house without debate?

Mr. Benson: All I am aware of is that my hon. friend speaks for himself.