

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

should quote Standing Orders, not a statute. I cannot recognize that the line he is taking now justifies a point of order. However I will hear him out and reach my decision after.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Mr. Speaker, I will refer once more to section 18, which was referred to in the answer given to me. I call the attention of the house to subsection 3 of section 18, which reads:

No bylaw made under this section has any effect unless it has been approved by the Treasury Board.

As late as yesterday Treasury Board informed me that the government has not approved this plan. Therefore it is illegal.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Again I must tell the hon. member that this is a point of debate, not a point of order.

**Mr. MacInnis:** A point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We have a question of privilege.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege. I have known in this house occasions when questions affecting United States dope peddlers in the Don jail and in Ottawa were discussed. If they were given consideration, then I think Cape Breton miners who are being forced to retire at the age of 60 are also entitled to some consideration.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. With respect, that is not in my opinion a question of privilege. The hon. member asked a question and received a reply. He may not be satisfied with the reply he received but I am sure many hon. members are in the same position of not being satisfied with the replies they receive, just as ministers may not be happy with the questions they are asked. This does not mean that there should be a point of order or a question of privilege whenever an hon. member is not satisfied with the answer that is given, or a minister with a question that is asked.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Does he support the early retirement plan of Devco?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I am not sure whether that question has been asked of the minister in his ministerial capacity or in his personal capacity, and I should like to know that.

[Mr. Speaker.]

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I believe the hon. member for Edmonton West is rising on a question of privilege and he should have precedence.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, while I am not directly implicated in this question I feel that, as a member of this house, my privileges are being called into question.

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

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** The hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond has on numerous occasions asked a question similar to the one he is now raising. On those occasions when the minister was here he professed ignorance of the point at issue. The hon. member directed a similar question to the Prime Minister yesterday as well as on previous occasions and was fobbed off with the answer, "Ask the question when the minister is here." My point of privilege is this. We have this so-called roster system, which I for one do not accept. Slated for appearance today are 18 ministers. When Your Honour called orders of the day only seven were present. Since then three stragglers have come in. I point out that yesterday when a question arose with regard to a motion for adjournment as was put forward by my colleague for Malpeque, Your Honour said that it would be proper to put the question or the motion when the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) was present to answer to those problems posed by the motion. With the greatest deference, there is no indication when the Secretary of State for External Affairs will be here. It may be in one week; it may be in ten days—

**An hon. Member:** He may never get here.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Similarly, the Prime Minister indicated yesterday that the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion should be asked a particular question. That minister was not then present and is not present today. The problem of my colleague for Cape Breton is imminent, since there is a deadline to meet, April 25. Hon. members of this house have the right to ask any number of questions of the ministry, which is responsible in general to this house. Questions