

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

has even been a report—the Higgins report—in which the three levels of government have participated and which proposes the site which we have actually chosen. Of course the choice was ours because the matter was under our jurisdiction, but the consultations lasted several months, and I think that the facts are such that the site which has been selected is the best in all respects.

**Mr. Rondeau:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question.

Was the government of Quebec opposed to the decision of the federal government or did it accept the report as the federal government did?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot speak in the name of the provincial government nor can I say how far removed its decision was from ours. I know that within the provincial government, as well as within the federal government, opinions were much divided on the choice of the best site. We have chosen the best one, not only for Canada, but also for the province and the metropolitan area. In my opinion this is an excellent choice and everybody will agree.

**Mr. Gaston Clermont (Gatineau):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a question of the Prime Minister.

Considering the announcement by the Minister of Transport of the choice of a site for the second international airport of Montreal, were representations made to him by citizens or groups of citizens of the north of Montreal with respect of the establishment of an eleventh Canadian province since provincial authorities seem to believe that the territory north of Montreal does not belong to the province of Quebec?

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Considering the importance of an adequate road system for the new airport, would the Prime Minister tell us if agreements have been concluded to that effect with the Quebec government and, if so, could he indicate what is their nature?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, as the decision was only taken yesterday at the cabinet meeting and was announced afterwards, it would have been impossible to conclude specific agreements with the provincial authorities for the works required by the establishment of the airport. We have obviously agreed that

wherever the airport were located, we would take our decisions in agreement with the provincial authorities. Evidently, if the province does not want to have an airport in the Montreal area, every aspect of international transport could be dealt with in Toronto.

**Mr. Rondeau:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Prime Minister.

Could he tell us who is right in the present dispute, since the officials of the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development told us that the airlines were asking a transfer—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I feel that this is an argumentative question and I do not think that the question as put is in order.

[English]

## FINANCE

## REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** I have a question for the Acting President of the Treasury Board. In the light of the somewhat startling contents of the report of the Auditor General for 1968 and in the face of the admission that at least 50 recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee dealing with previous reports have been pigeon-holed or ignored, will the President of the Treasury Board undertake to make a statement before the Easter recess dealing specifically with these recommendations and assuring the house that these illustrations of waste, incompetence and slovenly spending habits will be corrected?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** We shall, of course, take the hon. member's question under consideration. We have done our best to avoid the slovenly habits which existed under the previous government.

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

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** The previous government was headed by Mr. Lester Pearson.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Benson:** The government from 1957 to 1962.

**Mr. Fairweather:** You did not say that.