

jobs for them can be found elsewhere. There is also a counselling service for workers. This sort of thing is done throughout Canada. If the hon. member wants more details of these matters I am ready to make a report.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I will put the question again to the minister. Is he in on any specific plans—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South):—to alleviate the situation?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has already asked the question.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): On a further supplementary question—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I think we have the privilege of asking questions in this house about Cape Breton. A Liberal backbencher had the right to put a question about a Canadian fugitive arrested in New York—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): —and we should have the right to ask about 1100 men in Cape Breton.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Cape Breton South on a question of privilege.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I rise on a question of privilege, because I seek to ask questions about 1100 men at the Sydney steel plant, and the fact that information available to the government is denied by the minister's answer. I was not allowed to ask my question despite the fact that only a few days ago in this house a Liberal backbencher was permitted to ask questions about a fugitive from justice, on his way either to or from Europe, who was arrested in New York. If questions such as that are permitted, surely questions affecting 1100 people in Cape Breton can also be asked. I wanted information; the situation there shows lack of government planning. The Minister of Manpower and Immigration today failed to give me a concise answer. The Prime Minister has denied his own minister in the house.

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Inquiries of the Ministry

I draw the minister's attention to the answer by the Minister of Industry on page 12950 of *Hansard*, when this was said:

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. gentleman will recognize that the government is concerned about this problem of continuing job opportunities in the Cape Breton area. He will recall the recent announcement of the intention of the government to establish through legislation a corporation, the specific task of which would be to endeavour to find new job opportunities in Cape Breton to replace those that seem to be in the course of disappearing.

My question of privilege concerns the answers that are available to members of this house. There is the statement of the Minister of Industry, then a denial from the Prime Minister, then evasion from the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Mr. Speaker: Order. If the hon. member will read the citations and precedents he will know that an hon. member cannot raise a question of privilege on the failure of a minister to supply information.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): They asked about a fugitive.

CANADA ASSISTANCE PLAN

INQUIRY AS TO REGULATIONS AND AGREEMENTS WITH PROVINCES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. S. J. Enns (Portage-Neepawa): My question is addressed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare, and is in two parts. I should like to ask him first if the regulations supporting the Canada Assistance Plan have been developed as yet; and, if so, when the agreements will be signed with the provinces to give effect to this very worthwhile legislation.

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): The regulations have been approved by the governor in council, and agreements have been circulated to the provincial ministers for signature if they find them in order.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VIET NAM—INQUIRY AS TO FURTHER CANADIAN REPRESENTATIONS TO U.S.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Having in mind Canada's efforts to encourage a Viet Nam cease fire, is the minister making fresh representations to