

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[English]

**INDUSTRY**SYDNEY, N.S.—INQUIRY AS TO ASSISTANCE  
TO STEEL INDUSTRY

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry. In view of the pessimistic report, released on Monday of this week, regarding the future of steel at Sydney, may I ask the hon. gentleman what efforts will be made by the government to assist in this very serious problem?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry):** Mr. Speaker, the recently issued report is now under study. It is my proposal to have a meeting with the senior management officials of DOSCO to see what can be done.

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the hon. gentleman what success he has had with his representations to the president of the new transportation board, the former minister of transport, regarding the restructuring of freight rates in the shipment of steel from the Atlantic provinces?

**Mr. Drury:** None as yet, Mr. Speaker.

**PUBLIC SERVICE**LEGISLATION TO INCREASE PENSIONS OF  
RETIRED CIVIL SERVANTS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the President of Treasury Board. Has the government yet reached a decision on the introduction of legislation to increase the pensions of retired civil servants, as recommended on May 8 by the special joint committee on the Public Service of Canada?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board):** No, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Knowles:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the matter still on the cabinet's agenda?

**Mr. Benson:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. R. A. Bell (Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the hon. minister when he anticipates that a decision will be reached?

**Mr. Benson:** In due course, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Speaker.]

**DEFENCE PRODUCTION**INQUIRY AS TO TENDERS FOR NEW  
DESTROYERS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Industry a question supplemental to the one asked yesterday by the senior member for Halifax, concerning the four new d.d.h.'s. Could the minister allay the fears that exist in this regard, because they are growing and are real in Halifax, by indicating that the tenders for these four new ships will be called this fall.

**Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry):** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. MacEwan:** "Yes" what?

**NORTHERN AFFAIRS**ALBERTA—DEATH FROM MALNUTRITION OF  
INDIAN CHILD

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, but in his absence perhaps the parliamentary secretary could answer. Has the minister received a copy of the highly critical report of the coroner's jury convened to investigate the circumstances surrounding the tragic death from malnutrition of the 14-month old Indian girl on the Peigan reserve in Alberta? If so, what action is being taken to implement its recommendations for programs to avoid similar tragedies?

**Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice and bring it to the attention of the minister when he returns to the house.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR  
APPOINTMENTS ABROAD

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the minister's department given any consideration to appointing to ambassadorial or lesser positions people who understand the language of the country in which they will serve after appointment, or are these appointments based primarily on whether the people concerned are purely Liberals.