

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

should play a part in this matter through the Cape Breton Development Corporation.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, I doubt whether I should undertake to answer this question on behalf of the Acting Prime Minister. While I do not object to answering questions affecting the province of Nova Scotia, I wish to contest the point of order that is implicit in the hon. member's comments. I may do that at a later time. For the moment I wish to tell him that all the matters which have been the subject of discussion within the house with respect to the role of the Atlantic Development Board and the Cape Breton Development Corporation have been drawn to the attention of my colleagues, and they are under discussion.

**Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South):** A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wish to get to the bottom of the minister's answer. I asked whether the minister intends to continue to advocate the takeover by the Cape Breton Development Corporation. He has already advocated that in this house.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, I have made no such advocacy in this house or elsewhere.

[*Later:*]

**Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South):** I rise on a question of privilege arising from the answer of the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I referred to the Cape Breton Development Corporation, and the minister made some remarks about the possibility of assisting Nova Scotia in the steel crisis. Though I recall other remarks, Mr. Speaker, for the moment I have only briefly and quickly checked *Hansard*, and I draw to the attention of the minister his remarks on the matter on October 16, 1967, to be found on page 3158 of *Hansard*, the right hand column. The minister made a statement there about the Cape Breton Development Corporation.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Can the hon. member state his question of privilege? Many hon. members, I note, wish to ask questions and we are quickly running out of time for the question period.

**Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South):** My question of privilege arises from a statement by the minister in which he definitely denied something I said. In connection with my question of privilege I should like to quote the minister's own words in proof of my statement.

[Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South).]

**Mr. Speaker:** This is surely just a matter of debate. Every day of the year, I suggest to hon. members, allegations are made and statements are denied. This is strictly a question of debate; to my mind it cannot be a question of privilege. I cannot see how the hon. member's privileges have been affected by the statement of the minister.

**Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South):** With all due respect to Your Honour, all members are aware of the fact that when a question of privilege arises it must be brought up immediately. I wish only to quote the hon. member's own words to back up the statement I have made.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have no objection. It is the hon. members' time which is being taken up in this way.

**Mr. Knowles:** Our time.

**Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South):** The minister's own words, as they are to be found on page 3158 of *Hansard*, are as follows:

The corporation has the authority by law and will be in the position very soon to determine what it is going to do in relation to the Cape Breton steel problem. This corporation has very wide powers, powers wide enough to achieve the objective recommended by members of the N.D.P., if the directors desire to do so.

**Mr. MacEachen:** On the question of privilege, I do not see any inconsistency between that statement and the response I gave today. What I was doing was outlining the legal powers which I thought the corporation possessed. It was a matter of law. What the hon. member is concerned about is a matter of policy.

**Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South):** This is the only one I had the opportunity to find at the moment, but there have been others.

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** I should like to say a word on the question of privilege—

**Mr. Speaker:** I rule that there is no question of privilege. This is obviously a matter for debate, and I think it is not entirely fair to hon. members who appear to have a question of some moment to ask in the four or five minutes remaining in the question period that they should be deprived of the opportunity to ask those questions.

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** This is a new question of privilege. I rise at this time to suggest to you, sir, that the Minister of National Health and Welfare