

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I realize that the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar is anxious to ask a supplementary question. I said a moment ago that perhaps we might return to the subject in a few moments and allow other hon. members to ask questions about other subjects for a few minutes.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am happy to inform the hon. member that negotiations are now going on between the West German government and Canada to this end. It is hoped that this agreement can be concluded shortly.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

REQUEST FOR REFERENCE TO
STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Government House Leader, who is in the House but not in his seat. It is a very important and urgent question, Mr. Speaker.

An hon. Member: Tally-ho! Here he comes.

Mr. McGrath: I put it to him with all the sincerity and humility I can muster, Mr. Speaker. Will he bring in appropriate terms of reference as soon as possible so that the Standing Committee on Regional Development can continue its important work of pointing the way to the groping Minister of Regional Economic Expansion?

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In light of the interest being shown by district six of the United Steelworkers of America in the Prices and Incomes Commission, will the "minister of consumer affairs and high prices" inform the House if the commission has been instructed to investigate the inflationary price increases announced by Inco?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I cannot accept the question as asked.

PENSIONS

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CANADA
AND FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It relates to a matter which has been the subject of questions on the Order Paper and also the subject of correspondence. It is of great urgency to quite a few people. Can the minister say when a reciprocal agreement between Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany on the question of pensions will be concluded?

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

TRANSPORT

BORDEN-CAPE TORMENTINE SERVICE—
PROVISION OF RESERVE FERRY

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): I wish to direct a question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport. Perhaps he would be kind enough to take it as notice if he does not have an immediate reply. What provision is being made to have immediately available a reserve ship on the Borden-Cape Tormentine run this winter in case of a breakdown of either of the two operating ships, in view of the fact that apparently it is the intention to have the *Confederation* and the *Lucy Maud Montgomery* tied up in Halifax for the winter months?

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Loiselle (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, the Minister of Transport is not required to be in the House on Thursdays, but I will be pleased to bring the matter to his attention and he will provide an answer in the next few days.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Secretary of State.

Could the minister tell us if he has decided who will be appointed language commissioner and, if so, when can we expect that appointment?

An hon. Member: Be patient!

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the choice has not yet been made, but I think the hon. member will not have to wait too long.

[English]

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the importance and sensitivity of this appointment, does the minister plan to follow the example of the Minister of Justice and consult with the provinces before the appointment is made?