

**Mr. Scott (Danforth):** Perhaps the hon. lady would explain the rather complicated and devious methods by which these appointments are arrived at.

**Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Pictou):** May I ask a supplementary question concerning the returning officers. I wonder if the minister would be in a position, perhaps on Monday or Wednesday, to have the question standing on the order paper in my name answered?

### COAL

#### ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—PROPOSED VISIT BY MINISTER TO CAPE BRETON

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** My question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. May I ask the hon. gentleman on what date he plans to make his pilgrimage to Cape Breton in connection with the recommendations of the Donald report on coal?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** On November 3. Arrangements are already being made to accommodate people who would like to present representations.

### LABOUR RELATIONS

#### STATUS OF DISPUTE BETWEEN UPI AND WIRE SERVICE GUILD

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour with regard to the federal conciliation board in the dispute between United Press International and the wire operators. Can the minister say whether a report has been received from that board, and if not when it is expected?

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour):** Some days ago, Mr. Speaker, I stated in this house that the board expected to receive representations on the 7th and 8th of this month, or possibly it was the 6th and 7th, and that I expected to receive the report in due course. At the time of my last inquiry it had not been received. I do not know whether it has come in within the last few hours, but I will be glad to inquire and let the hon. member know.

### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

#### OLD AGE SECURITY

#### INQUIRY AS TO INCREASE IN PENSION WITHOUT MEANS TEST

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the Prime Minister's reply to an earlier question by the hon. member for Grey-Bruce to the effect that legislation increasing the old age pension will be on the order paper soon, can he say whether the government has now decided to make that increase without a means test?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** While I appreciate the hon. gentleman's interest and also perhaps his impatience, I ask him to wait until the matter is before the house when his curiosity will be satisfied, and I hope satisfactorily satisfied.

**Mr. Knowles:** Does the Prime Minister realize I will be satisfied only if there is no means test?

**Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce):** May I ask a supplementary question. Since the matter is so urgent, I should like to ask the Prime Minister if he does not feel, in the light of the high cost of living and the fact that senior citizens are trying to live on \$75 a month, that the legislation should be proceeded with immediately because the increase should have been made last January?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order; the question is argumentative.

**Mr. Reid Scott (Danforth):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a question of the Prime Minister relating to the increase in the old age pension. In view of the difficulties in getting this legislation before the house and having it passed because of other matters that are occupying our time, and in view of the need of the pensioners for relief, would the government not give consideration to making the pension increases retroactive to some date earlier in the year?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I suggest to the hon. member—

**Mr. Winkler:** Let them spend that \$320 million they have.

**Mr. Speaker:**—that this might be discussed when the legislation comes in. I do not think this is a question that should be asked now.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** A supplementary question,