

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. McCleave:** Mr. Speaker, this is the first question I have asked in three weeks in this place. I am asking the minister whether he will give permission to these people to institute such proceedings.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Well, I have not received—

**Mr. Woolliams:** Go ahead and break the law, John. You have been doing it and endorsing it.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** I have not received any request for mandamus action. I would have to consider it when I get it. But the final result remains with the courts, as the hon. gentleman knows.

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice, which I think future generations would like to see on the record, with respect to this matter. Has the minister himself initiated any proceedings against the Minister of Finance for his failure to fulfil the statutory duty imposed upon him by sections 3 and 4 of the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** No, Mr. Speaker, and I think the record will speak for future generations.

**Mr. Stanfield:** That is exactly right.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have tried to be as fair as possible in giving members an opportunity to ask supplementaries, but we are running short of time. Other hon. members have been rising for the last few days, and I would like to give them an opportunity to ask questions. We might allow one last supplementary and then go to the next subject.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** My last supplementary is: Does the minister intend now or in the future to take action such as was mentioned a few minutes ago by my colleagues and initiate proceedings against the Minister of Finance under this particular law of Canada? I want this on the record.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** No, Mr. Speaker.

\* \* \*

**PENSIONS****LOWERING OF AGE FOR ESCALATION OF PENSIONS OF RETIRED ARMED FORCES AND RCMP PERSONNEL**

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to stay on the previous subject, but instead I shall direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board. He is also a remarkable minister.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** In view of a commitment the minister gave to the House when we were debating Bill C-207 earlier this year, that a certain anomaly would be corrected, I wonder if he is in a position to report progress on his efforts? The anomaly I refer to is the fact that retired armed forces and RCMP personnel are not able to get their pensions escalated until they are 60 years of age, whereas this is now possible for certain retired public servants. How is the minister getting on

with the implementation of his commitment to get this anomaly straightened out?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** I can report progress, Mr. Speaker, not at what one would regard as a breathtaking pace, but some progress.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** As I said, the minister is a remarkable man.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

**AIRPORTS****TROIS-RIVIÈRES—POSSIBLE CLOSING.**

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Has the minister recently assured a delegation from the Trois-Rivières constituency that the Trois-Rivières airport would not be closed down?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I have not received any delegation from Trois-Rivières with regard to this matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not believe that this question should have been put to that particular minister.

\* \* \*

**REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION****SHERBROOKE—GRANTS TO CANADIAN INGERSOLL-****RAND—REQUEST FOR REFUND**

**Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Does he intend to claim reimbursement from the Canadian Ingersoll-Rand of Sherbrooke which has obtained a \$200,000 grant from his department to create 75 jobs but which has decided to close its smelting plant in Sherbrooke, thus putting 140 people out of work?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I think my hon. colleague should at least get acquainted with the facts. No grant has been awarded to Ingersoll-Rand, so no reimbursement can be claimed. A grant was promised if jobs were made available. The part of the plant which is to stop operations has nothing to do with the one for which the grant was offered.

**Mr. Ricard:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would like to advise the minister to check the facts before issuing press releases, so that we shall be better informed.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I believe the hon. member for Mackenzie is one member who has been trying for a few days to ask a question.