

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

people generally and also to the members of the House of Commons. Can the minister tell the house approximately when the official languages bill will be before this chamber? He does not have to fix the actual date, but will it be within the next two weeks, so that members may arrange to be present?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, as hon. members will have noted, my colleague the Minister of Justice will be bringing before cabinet certain proposed amendments to the official languages bill. I do not expect it to be ready before two weeks time, but I hope it will be ready soon after that for continuation of the second reading debate.

**INDUSTRY****PARITY BETWEEN CANADIAN AND U.S. AUTOMOBILE PRICES**

**Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington):** I should like to address my question to the Acting Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Did the minister meet with the Ford officials as promised, and was he successful in convincing them that the price of their new Maverick car should represent full and complete parity with the price paid in the United States for the same car produced in Canada?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio):** I believe my colleague was in touch with the Ford officials, as he suggested was his intention, and gained from them a continued assurance that they would work toward better productivity with regard to automobiles in Canada.

**Mr. Hales:** The minister did not answer the question. May we expect full and complete parity in price?

**Mr. Lang:** Parity in price is, of course, the objective, or, rather, it would be more correct to say that the lowest reasonable price is the objective, because there are differences in the Canadian and United States markets which might in the long run result in different prices. But certainly it is our hope that prices in Canada will be as low as possible.

**DEVCO—COMPULSORY RETIREMENT OF MINERS**

**Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister as leader of the government. Is the Prime Minister as leader of the government now prepared to state whether his government endorses the compulsory

retirement of Cape Breton miners at the age of 60?

**Mr. Russell C. Honey (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I have an answer to that which I might give to the hon. member, who has raised the question on two or three occasions.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Two or three? You can't count.

**Mr. Honey:** This question has reference to the pre-retirement leave plan of the Cape Breton Development Corporation. Intentions in this regard have been known since November 18 of last year when the minister tabled the over-all plan of Devco in the house. At that time he made it plain that the government had approved the plan of which the pre-retirement leave provisions are an integral part.

To implement the plan Devco recently sent out some 1,300 letters to members of the mining force aged 55 and over. In accordance with the plan those workers aged 60 and over were advised that the pre-retirement plan would take effect for them on April 26. Those between 55 and 60 were given the option of taking advantage of the plan if they so desired.

I might mention that of the 671 members of the mining force aged 55 to 59, more than 500 have informed the Cape Breton Development Corporation that they wish to take advantage of the pre-retirement leave plan as of May 1.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order to indicate to the government that despite the fact that a number of miners are accepting, it is nevertheless those individuals who are being forced to retire at the age of 60 whom we must concern ourselves with. Otherwise we are—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I am sure the hon. member recognizes that that is not a point of order. It is a point of debate rather than a point of order. I do not recognize that there is a point of order there at all.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Then I will give you a legitimate point of order, Mr. Speaker. Let me see the Prime Minister smirk this one off. In the act setting up the Cape Breton Development Corporation, under section 18 the corporation has—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. If the hon. member has a legitimate point of order he