

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** I suppose I could be extremely brief and answer by saying no. However, I should like to provide a little additional information. Negotiations with the province of Ontario are proceeding, I think I can say, at a very rapid rate and I would hope to be in a position very shortly to make the announcement to which the hon. member refers.

**Mr. Hales:** I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. In this morning's *Globe and Mail* there appeared an article stating that the airport would be located in the Claremont district near Pickering, Ontario. We have been asking questions about this new airport for two years. The minister gave the House an assurance that he would make the announcement in the House in due time. He said that two weeks ago today. Now there has been the announcement in the press about its location and I think we, as members of this House, are entitled to be told in this chamber whether this is the location or not, and why an announcement was not made simultaneously yesterday when it was apparently announced in the Ontario legislature.

**Mr. Jamieson:** I am not sure what my privileges are in these circumstances, Mr. Speaker, but if that can be taken as a question I could answer that the story today, as far as I am concerned, is merely one of a long series of speculative stories. I do know, as a matter of fact, that no announcement has been made in the Ontario legislature.

**Mr. Hales:** A supplementary question—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Wellington is really asking a series of questions after we have reached the moment to call orders of the day. This, I suggest to him, is irregular. I stretched a point by allowing him to ask a question by way of a point of order, and the minister replied. Then the hon. member asked a supplementary which questioned the minister's answer. If it is the wish of all hon. members, perhaps the hon. member for Wellington might be allowed a further supplementary.

**Mr. Hales:** My supplementary would be this, Your Honour: Is this the location which has been selected or is it not? It has been announced that this is to be the location. I want to know whether that is correct or not.

**Mr. Jamieson:** I think it is perfectly obvious that I cannot be asked to confirm or deny a press report. I can only say to you, Mr. Speaker, that I have consistently respected this House. I have made a commitment that any official announcement will be made in this chamber and I reaffirm that commitment by saying I shall do so at the earliest possible moment after negotiations have been concluded with the province of Ontario.

**Mr. Simpson:** I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. It is based on the fact that for four days I have waited to put a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. On two of those days he was supposed to be in the House according to the roster system. Today, since the question is urgent, I intended to direct it to the Minister of National Revenue because he, too, has some responsibility for the Canada Pension Plan. Before the end of the question period the Minister of National Revenue left the House. Surely, if we are compelled to operate

under a roster system, with very few ministers attending, at least the ones supposed to be here in accordance with that system should be obliged to be here and, when they do attend, to remain for the whole of the question period.

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

**Mr. Lundrigan:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker, in order to assist the House. In view of the fact that we have a limited time during the question period, in view of the fact that in the future I can foresee many questions on the local initiatives program, and bearing in mind that perhaps the Acting Prime Minister did not realize the significance of the request to refer that program to the Standing Committee on Manpower and Immigration, I should like to know whether it is in order to raise with the leader of the House the need for a specific reference to the committee of the local initiatives program with a direction to report to the House on guidelines and principles which could be recommended to the House and perhaps approved. This is quite different from a reference of the estimates which does not provide for such an investigation or report.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Again, this is somewhat irregular. If the President of the Privy Council wishes to reply briefly, I suppose he might be allowed to do so but we have now exceeded the question period by ten minutes. There is, of course, no authority for allowing members to ask questions after the expiry of the question period unless by unanimous consent of the House. But I would not want to complicate matters. If the President of the Privy Council can reply briefly he might do so, and we shall again try to get on with the business of the House.

**Mr. MacEachen:** I shall be brief and advise the hon. member that in my opinion the efforts of the committee would be quite as successful in any case, since with the authority granted to the committees to study the estimates there would be no necessity for any special reference.

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

**Mr. Burton:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Earlier in the question period I asked a question about a serious potential conflict of interest on the part of members of the Industrial Incentives Advisory Board. In view of the seriousness of this matter and, I am sure, the desire on the part of all hon. members to see the matter cleared up as soon as possible, I wonder whether we could have some indication from the government House leader, since the Acting Prime Minister has now left the chamber, whether the government would be prepared to table the minutes of all meetings of the Industrial Incentives Advisory Board—

• (1540)

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Again I suggest to hon. members that it is an abuse of the rules to attempt on points of order to ask questions which might legitimately have been asked during the question period. Hon. members know that there are 40 minutes allotted to the question period. If from day to day considerable time is spent on one particular subject or another, be that subject very important, then some other questions, also important, will have to be set aside. Today I was anxious to recognize the hon. member for Churchill, the hon. member for Dart-