

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Lewis:** That is why the motion is so silly.

**Mr. MacEachen:** —is to meet very shortly. The hon. member for York South now takes the ground that the timing is all wrong; the principle is all right but the timing is wrong.

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

**Mr. Lewis:** I did not oppose it last night.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, I do not want to engage in an acrimonious debate with members of the house. I have exposed the convention that is at play in this motion, a convention that has been observed in the House of Commons, that has operated in the interests of all groups in this house, and members of parliament ought to consider whether this convention ought to be supported in the future. In order to give hon. members the opportunity to reflect on the matter, I move the adjournment of the debate.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There is a motion for the adjournment of the debate, and this motion is not debatable. Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Yea.

**Some hon. Members:** Nay.

**Mr. Speaker:** Carried.

Motion agreed to and debate adjourned.

**LABOUR CONDITIONS****STEPS TO STIMULATE EMPLOYMENT IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, on March 14 as recorded at page 7615 of *Hansard* the Leader of the Opposition asked this question of the right hon. Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is not in the chamber at the moment, but I wonder whether the Acting Prime Minister will convey this question to him:

In view of the statement by the president of the Canadian Construction Association that the construction industry in Canada faces serious unemployment before the fall...could the Prime Minister take an early occasion to indicate to the house whether the government has any plans on hand or in mind to stimulate employment in the construction industry by autumn?

To which the Prime Minister replied:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Would the Acting Prime Minister ask the Prime Minister whether he would be good

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enough to give us an indication or a statement on motions tomorrow as to what are the plans?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I will direct the matter to the attention of the Prime Minister.

**FINANCE****CANADIAN REPRESENTATION AT MEETING OF MONETARY FUND**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, before asking my question I wonder if I may inquire whether the Prime Minister will be back during the question period.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I think so.

**Mr. Douglas:** Then I will hold my question until he returns and in the meantime direct a question to the Minister of Finance. I wish to ask the minister about the meeting of the finance ministers of the I.M.F., which I believe is to be held on the 29th of this month in Sweden, and to ask him whether he intends to represent Canada at that meeting or, if not, who will represent Canada on that occasion.

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, no decision has yet been taken.

**Mr. Douglas:** As a supplementary question, will Canada be represented? I am sure the minister will agree it is most important that Canada should be represented at this critical time. Will Canada be represented, and how soon will the minister be making a decision as to whether he personally will represent Canada, or someone else in his department?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, Canada will of course be represented. This is a meeting in which we have a very vital interest, and as soon as a decision is made as to representation I will tell the house.

**CONVERSION OF 1959 SAVINGS BOND ISSUE**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. With regard to the conversion of the 1959 series of Canada savings bonds, part of the conversion requirement being \$27 million in 1968, is the Minister of Finance satisfied with the average interest rate of 6.88 per cent—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The question is argumentative.