

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Burton: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I am sure all members will be happy to hear that at least some results have been obtained—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

HIGHWAYSATLANTIC PROVINCES—COST-SHARING
FORMULA

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the question period expired before I had a chance to ask an important question of the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Therefore may I direct it to the Prime Minister and ask the right hon. gentleman if he will ask his colleague to indicate by a statement on motions as early in the new year as possible, or perhaps even next week because we are all "a-Freud" of what the Prime Minister said earlier, the position of the government with regard to cost-sharing on highways formerly carried out by the Atlantic Development Board?

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Yesterday I also had an important question which I wished to direct to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. I rose in my place 22 times, which must be something of a record.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McGrath: My persistence was prompted by the knowledge that according to the roster system the minister would not be in the House today and that, to all intents and purposes, the House would be adjourning today for the Christmas recess.

Mr. Baldwin: It is not so certain now.

Mr. McGrath: I realize the difficulties Your Honour has in this regard and I sympathize with Your Honour, but my point of order, which I leave for your Honour's consideration over the Christmas recess, is that either the roster system, which many of us believe to be illegal, has to go or the question period has to be extended; otherwise we will be destroying this institution.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Perhaps hon. members might give consideration to planning their approach to Parliament in general and to the question period in particular in a more organized way. As to the number of

points on which the hon. member rose, he might like to join the National Ballet Company.

Mr. McCutcheon: May I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will recognize the hon. member on a point of order in a moment, but may I point out first that we have just about run out of time.

Mr. McCutcheon: My point of order concerns the remarks of the Government House leader concerning good planning. He must be thrilled to have organized yesterday meetings of two standing committees of the House, the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Public Accounts, even though the House first met last October.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of personal privilege. It is precisely the type of frivolous attitude manifested by the Government House leader today that is destroying this institution.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Trudeau: That is your swan song.

Mr. Speaker: I have been asked to give an opportunity to the hon. member for Victoria-Haliburton to rise.

Mr. Rose: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is the hon. member rising on a new question of privilege?

Mr. Rose: No, Mr. Speaker. Following the remarks of the hon. member for St. John's East I should like to inform the House that he does not hold the record for jumping up and down in the question period. I believe I do. As a matter of fact, I hold the record to such an extent that I have given up my membership at Vic Tanny's.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Hon. members will appreciate that the Chair is also a contender for that record.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS ARMOURIES

Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): My question is for the Minister of National Defence. In view of his department's recent