

Inquiries of the Ministry

now consider tabling in the house the documents which I requested yesterday namely correspondence on this one particular point?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I regret that I have not had an opportunity to consider this question and to examine the correspondence since the question was asked yesterday, and therefore I am not in a position to table the correspondence now.

Mr. Knowles: Would the minister consider it if, perchance, we have not passed this clause by the end of today?

COAL**DISCUSSION RESPECTING ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRY IN CAPE BRETON**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): My question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. May I ask the hon. gentleman if as yet he has been in a position to make his delayed visit to Halifax to confer with Premier Stanfield concerning the coal problem in Nova Scotia, and if so, is he in a position as yet to make a report to the house?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I had the pleasure of meeting Premier Stanfield yesterday and we agreed to tell the hon. member that it was a very successful meeting.

CANADA ELECTIONS ACT**REAPPOINTMENT OF EXPERIENCED RETURNING OFFICERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. W. Prittie (Burnaby-Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State which she might take as notice and answer on Monday. Will the minister inform the house why competent returning officers with years of experience are not being reappointed for the new constituencies? New appointments are being made daily and these experienced people are being dropped.

Mr. Speaker: I have some doubts as to whether this question can be asked at this time.

Mr. Prittie: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today the hon. member for Grey-Bruce asked the Minister of Labour about appointments of lawyers to the [Mr. Knowles.]

C.M.H.C. If this question cannot be asked at this time, when can it be asked?

Mr. Speaker: It can always be asked at ten o'clock.

PUBLIC SERVICE**PROPOSED COMMITTEE STUDY OF SUPER-ANNUATION BENEFITS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Benson) may I direct a question either to the acting minister or to his parliamentary secretary. In view of the fact that the joint committee on the public service of Canada is getting along pretty well with the bills which have been referred to it, will the minister reactivate his consideration of a term of reference for that committee to enable it to study the question of the pensions of retired civil servants when we have completed the other legislation?

Mr. J. E. Walker (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Revenue): I will make a particular point of bringing this to the minister's attention.

EDUCATION**IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reid Scott (Danforth): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. I would have directed it to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp) but I think his heart is hardened on this point and it is useless to appeal to him. I will therefore ask the Acting Prime Minister the following question: In view of the evidence submitted by the head of the Economic Council before the prices committee that we have passed the inflationary period, can we expect in this session legislation to implement the 10,000 scholarships program which has been dangled before the students of Canada during two successive elections?

Hon. Paul Martin (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will refer this question to the very generous-minded Minister of Finance.

● (2:20 p.m.)

HEALTH AND WELFARE**MEDICARE—AUTHORIZATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD COST OF INSURED MEDICAL CARE**

The house resumed, from Thursday, December 1, consideration in committee of Bill