

Inquiries of the Ministry

INDUSTRY

NOVA SCOTIA—ESTABLISHMENT OF HEAVY WATER PLANT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): I have a question for the Prime Minister. I apologize for not having given him notice but I am sure he is familiar with the subject matter. In view of the favourable industrial climate created by the government of the province of Nova Scotia, is the right hon. gentleman prepared to announce now that a heavy water plant will be established in that province?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Urgent consideration is being given to this very important question and a decision will be announced shortly.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT

[*Translation*]

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Beaulé (Quebec East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Since the term of office of Mr. Donald Gordon, the president of the Canadian National Railways, expires today, can the Prime Minister disclose the name of Mr. Gordon's successor?

[*Text*]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. The term of office of Mr. Donald Gordon as a director of Canadian National Railways expired today, that is true; but under the Canadian National Railways Act a director whose term of office has expired remains a director until a successor is appointed, and he himself is eligible for reappointment. An announcement on this matter will be made in a few days.

An hon. Member: In the house?

Mr. Pearson: In the house.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilles Gregoire (Lapointe): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the Prime Minister assure the house that he will not appoint Mr. Gordon for another term of office until he has appeared before the committee on railways, air lines and shipping?

[*Text*]

Mr. Pearson: I said an announcement would be made on this matter in a few days. That is all I can say about it at the moment.

Mr. Gregoire: May I ask the Prime Minister if it is possible to wait until the president of the C.N.R. comes before the sessional committee on railroads?

Mr. Pearson: I shall be very glad to take that suggestion into consideration.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister a supplementary question. Is it true that the government intends to replace Mr. Gordon by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Chevrier)?

[*Text*]

Mr. Pearson: We do not intend to replace him by the hon. gentleman, I assure you.

HOUSING

EFFECT ON RENTS OF OLD AGE PENSION INCREASE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Arnold Webster (Vancouver-Kingsway): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Revenue. Is it true, as reported, that old age pensioners living in housing projects financed by federal money have been given assurance that their rents will not be increased when they receive the anticipated advance in their pensions?

Hon. J. R. Garland (Minister of National Revenue): I wish to thank the hon. member for having given me notice of his intention to ask this question. In view of the interest in this subject perhaps I could best answer it by saying that there are 220 National Housing Act projects in Canada lived in by over 8,000 elderly persons. In these 220 projects, because of changes in local taxes and costs of administration, rents occasionally have to be increased. As the minister responsible for housing I instructed Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation early in September to inform all limited dividend companies operating elderly persons' projects that no rental changes are to be made without the written consent of the corporation.

In addition to such projects nearly 1,000 rental units have been built in Canada for elderly persons under special agreements between the federal and provincial governments. The same sort of units are available for other low income families and in most instances the rents are geared to income. Here again I have asked Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to recommend to our provincial partners in such schemes that there be no automatic increase in the rentals to elderly persons because of the raising of pensions. Should a rental adjustment prove necessary for any reason in such federal-provincial arrangements, I would request the