

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

the report will be on the agenda of the federal-provincial conference next week?

**Mr. Trudeau:** The general subject matter of official languages, Mr. Speaker, will be on the agenda. There will be, at any rate, a report of the subcommittee of officials as part of the total report of the committee of officials, and if the provinces or the federal government decide to discuss that report, as I have no doubt they will, I am sure they will be considering the general subject matter of languages. They may also want to address general considerations to the kind of recommendations made in the second volume. I would merely say that one week's notice in this respect will perhaps not be enough to enable very good progress to be made at this particular meeting.

**AIR CANADA****PRESS RELEASE RESPECTING SALE OF WINNIPEG MAINTENANCE BASE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and relates to a press release, which was made an appendix to yesterday's *Hansard*, page 3731, concerning Air Canada's Winnipeg base. There is a reference in that release to the fact that negotiations for the sale of the base will involve protection of the interests of the present employees. Does that involve a guarantee to employees that they will retain their jobs, seniority and other rights they now have?

**Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the member would mind asking the Minister of Transport this question? He is the one who is responsible for the press release. I cannot answer this particular question.

**INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. John Burton (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister what commitments he may have made to the Canadian Manufacturers Association in response to their brief opposing any moves toward a planned economy?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. This is not a question which can be asked at this time.

[Mr. Lewis.]

**PROCEDURE****MOTION FOR CONCURRENCE IN FOURTH REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE**

**Mr. D. Gordon Blair (Grenville-Carleton)** moved:

That the fourth report of the special committee on procedure of the house, presented to the house on Friday, December 6, 1968, be concurred in.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I rise to move concurrence in the fourth report of the special committee on procedure of the house. In doing so, I hope—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Blair:** I must say immediately that we did not take into consideration the electronic devices, but perhaps we should have.

**Mr. Nowlan:** The lights of parliament are getting dim.

**Mr. Blair:** In undertaking this task I hope that without offending the rules of the house I can explain briefly the nature of the three reports which were filed on Friday last. The third report is an explanation of the various recommendations made by the committee. These recommendations are set forth in the form of draft standing orders in the fourth and fifth reports. The fourth report contains major recommendations of the committee dealing with such matters as supply, ways and means, the legislative process, the programming of business, and so on. The fifth report contains a number of important but less significant amendments and also includes a number of amendments which would be consequential upon the adoption of the fourth report.

• (4:00 p.m.)

In making these remarks I am conscious of my duty as chairman of this committee. I intend to speak factually, objectively and dispassionately in an attempt to explain what this committee, composed of representatives of all parties in the house, attempted to accomplish in its reports.

I should say at once that your committee held 26 meetings in the space of almost three months and that all of its deliberations were marked by extreme cordiality and by the fullest and frankest exchanges of opinion. At the end, despite its best efforts the committee had to agree to disagree on what appear to me to be only two or three issues at the most. The suggestion that was made in some quarters of the press that the committee broke up in