

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, a conference is scheduled for later this week in Ottawa sponsored by the Royal Society to deal with this subject. Experts from all over the world are coming here. After that conference is over we may have information which will be useful in this regard.

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PENSIONS

OLD AGE SECURITY—ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RETURN OF BASIC INCREASE BY CERTAIN PENSIONERS—USE MADE OF MONEY

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that many old age pensioners, either directly or through members of this House, are sending contributions of 42 cents to the minister, I wonder if receipt of these contributions is being acknowledged and what use is being made of the money?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have received three such amounts of money. I am acknowledging those letters. The money will be deposited to the credit of the Receiver General. I would hope my hon. friends opposite would be honest enough to send their money to me too.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, will the minister be good enough to acknowledge those I shall send to him very shortly?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

RENFREW—PLANS TO ASSIST AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY TO MAINTAIN OPERATIONS

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. I wish to ask the minister whether the town of Renfrew falls within the category of a designated or depressed area and, if so, what plans the government proposes in order to assist the aircraft industry there which is about to close and put 300 highly skilled employees out of work?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, we met with a delegation from Renfrew this morning in connection with this matter. Should there be a company interested in acquiring the United Aircraft plants, we will be pleased to help such a venture. We will be pleased also to support any local initiative to this end.

[*English*]

Mr. Hales: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Labour what steps he proposes to take to find employment for these highly skilled employees?

[*Mr. Crouse.*]

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, without appearing to be facetious, I think that question should be directed to the Minister of Manpower who has that responsibility.

RENFREW—ACTION TO FIND REPLACEMENT FOR AIRCRAFT COMPANY

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. What initiative is the minister's department taking to find a replacement for this company in view of the minister's statutory responsibility with regard to creating employment during periods of peak unemployment?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, we are authorized by legislation to grant subsidies to business wanting to set up facilities in designated areas. Renfrew is a designated area. We will do all we can for companies that will request grants in order to promote industrial expansion. However, I cannot make the requests on their behalf.

[*English*]

SIGNING OF GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH NOVA SCOTIA

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. When he and the hon. member complete their discussion across the floor of the House I will direct it to him. I notice from the newspapers that today is supposed to be the day that his department and the province of Nova Scotia enter into the next general, broad agreement. I also notice the absence of the Government House Leader and I wonder, since today is the day the agreement is to be entered into, whether the Government House Leader is home grabbing a little more glory for himself?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will appreciate that the question as asked is not in order. He may want the floor again for the purpose of rephrasing the question. There will be no difficulty about that.

Mr. Forrestall: Seriously, Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion could indicate whether or not the federal authority and the province of Nova Scotia will today enter into their broad general agreement or whether this has been postponed indefinitely?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, nothing has been delayed. The agreement must be signed by a minister from Nova Scotia and myself. I have not signed any document this morning and I shall not sign any this afternoon either.

[*Later:*]

[*English*]

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion would care to indicate whether or not the agreement will be entered into this