

## NATIONAL DEFENCE

### DESTROYER CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM— TREASURY BOARD APPROVAL

**Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Treasury Board. Did the Treasury Board approve a full go ahead on the destroyer escort program?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, the Treasury Board has in the past authorized such things as are necessary to be authorized to enable the destroyers to be constructed.

**Mr. Bell:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, concerning the matter of extra defence costs. Is there any evidence that if the Minister of National Defence does not get his way in such matters he will disembowel himself as the minister—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Spadina.

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## URBAN AFFAIRS

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR MASS TRANSIT SYSTEMS

**Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for urban affairs. Would the minister inform the House whether the government intends to set up a fund in order to help the cities to improve their mass transit systems?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio):** Mr. Speaker, no such specific decision on such a specific program has been agreed upon yet. The whole question of assistance to the cities, in co-operation with provincial governments, is a matter that will be assigned to the new ministry that is to be created. This, among many other matters, will be discussed with our provincial counterparts.

**Mr. Ryan:** Has there been any decision to assist the city of Montreal with the extension of its subway system?

**Mr. Andras:** Not specifically to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

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## AIRPORTS

### TORONTO—MEETING WITH PROVINCE RESPECTING NEW SITE—PROTECTION AGAINST LAND SPECULATION

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a related question to the minister. Some time ago, I believe last week, the Minister of Transport indicated that he intended meeting with Premier Robarts with regard to Toronto's second international airport. Considering the minister's interest in urban growth, may I ask him whether this meeting has taken place and has resulted in the necessary safeguards to prevent specula-

## *Inquiries of the Ministry*

tion? If so, when can we expect an announcement regarding the definite sites which are being considered?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio):** Mr. Speaker, there is consultation between my colleague, the Minister of Transport, and myself on this matter. However, I think the question should properly be posed to him when he returns to the House.

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## PENSIONS

### OLD AGE SECURITY—MEANING OF GOVERNOR GENERAL'S RECOMMENDATION ON NOTICE PAPER

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Acting Government House Leader. Would the minister filling this role take a look at page iv of the notice paper attached to today's order paper and see whether there is a typographical error. There is a recommendation there that suggests that the basic old age pension is to be raised to \$80 a month, which is only 42 cents more than the amount now being paid. Surely this must be an error.

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## NATIONAL SECURITY

### WAR MEASURES ACT—ALLEGED BEATING OF PERSONS ARRESTED

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Solicitor General. In light of the report that has been in the possession of the Quebec ombudsman regarding beatings of persons arrested under the War Measures Act, has the minister inquired of Quebec ministers whether the officer responsible has been arrested or suspended. If not, what action has the Solicitor General taken?

**Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, I assume the hon. member is referring to the press reports of part of the evidence before the coroner's court. If he is, he will recall that the Minister of Justice of Quebec indicated that he was having that allegation investigated. He made that indication almost immediately after the item was reported in the press.

**Mr. Fairweather:** Is the Solicitor General or is the Minister of Justice following this case on a daily basis, or is the minister relying on the results of the Quebec investigation?

**Mr. McIlraith:** Mr. Speaker, the matter is within the responsibilities of the Quebec Attorney General and not of the federal authority. It is my understanding, as indicated in the House by the Minister of Justice, that that minister has been in communication with the Minister of Justice of Quebec over the matter. I am not in possession of the detailed information as to whether this continues daily, or how it is arranged.