

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Acting Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Nystrom: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the Acting Prime Minister in a position to inform the House as to which countries the minister will be visiting while in the Middle East?

Mr. McIlraith: No, Mr. Speaker, but I will be glad to have that information brought forward on Wednesday.

[*Later:*]

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, a few moments ago I answered two questions addressed to me. I was under the impression the Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs was not in the House. I notice he is in the House and perhaps he could be permitted to give fuller answers to those questions.

[*Translation:*]

Mr. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) is going to Iran, Israel and the United Arab Republic.

The purpose of his trip is to respond to the invitation extended by the Foreign Affairs ministers of these three countries and, naturally, to inquire in the field on the problems facing those countries.

The object of his mission is necessarily a peaceful one, even if it is not necessarily a peace mission.

[*English:*]

CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I wanted to ask a question relating to external affairs but apparently there is no one in the House to answer. I think this is a day on which the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion is supposed to respond to questions. He was here earlier. Perhaps his Parliamentary Secretary could inform the House whether a chairman of the board of the Cape Breton Development Corporation has yet been appointed to replace the chairman who resigned a number of months ago?

Mr. Martin P. O'Connell (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I will be pleased to bring that

[*Mr. Nystrom:*]

question to the attention of the minister, Mr. Speaker.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): I have a question for the Postmaster General. In view of the increasing number of Canadians who are deprived of letter carrier delivery service under the existing rules of the Post Office, does the minister or the government have under consideration the complete abolition of mail delivery to individual premises across Canada in order that all discrimination can be eliminated?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question appears to be in argumentative terms.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

TRANSFER OF LANCASTER HOSPITAL

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): My question is to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. With regard to the take-over of the Lancaster veterans hospital, which is the subject matter of a pending question on the late show this week by the hon. member for York-Sunbury, will the minister satisfy himself that the heavy lay-offs of staff from this hospital are in accordance with civil service guarantees?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs): As the hon. member has said, Mr. Speaker, this whole matter will be discussed on the late show some time this week, perhaps this evening. With regard to the lay-offs, I wish to assure the hon. member that all due precautions and notices have been given. We do not know as yet how many lay-offs there will be. What we did send out last week were notices to those who may be surplus. It is very possible those who have received such notices will fit into other positions.

WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCE ACT—INQUIRY AS TO REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Tomorrow being Remembrance Day, I wonder if I might ask the hon. gentleman a question which is of concern to many veterans. When the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs finishes the work it is now doing in connection with the Pension Act, will the government be prepared to refer to that committee a study of the War Veterans Allowance Act?