

Inquiries of the Ministry

Would the Prime Minister ascertain whether the Premier of Quebec uttered the statement we read in the press last week that:

It is the first time the Ottawa government agrees to such an unconditional payment, which I blamed the Barrette-Fleming formula for not allowing.

Mr. Speaker: Once again, I would suggest to the hon. member that this question be put on the order paper.

[English]

PENSIONS**INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATION REGULATING PRIVATE PLANS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the statement made in the Ontario legislature by Mr. Wishart concerning legislation respecting the regulation of private pension plans, and in view of the confusion created by that statement, will the government reconsider its legislation in this field with a view to bringing it in at an early date?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the situation in this respect remains as I explained it on January 25 and, I believe in answer to a later question; I said that we understood the question to be urgent but that there were other matters of even greater urgency that would be appearing or are now on the order paper.

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the Minister of Finance whether he has given consideration to the fact that if Mr. Wishart's legal advice is correct and railway employees in Ontario now have greater rights than railway employees in every other province, this may affect the whole actuarial basis of the pension fund.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is now making an argument.

INQUIRIES OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Is the Prime Minister holding up the announcement of the appointment of Hazen Argue to the Senate at the insistence of Premier Thatcher until after the provincial Benaugh by-election?

[Mr. Vincent.]

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, might I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. May I ask him whether in the light of the very considerable concern in Halifax he would give this house and all maritimers his very capable assurance that certain suggestions made by the hon. member for Lapointe will not be considered by the government?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): That question is so involved, sir, that I think it should be saved for the estimates.

HOUSING**TORONTO—COMMUNITY CENTRE FACILITIES FOR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. S. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Labour in his function as the minister responsible for C.M.H.C. Has C.M.H.C. recommended to the city of Toronto that the plan for the Trefann Court housing development in downtown Toronto should include community centre facilities for the Regent Park and Trefann Court developments?

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This question might well be placed on the order paper.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. R. A. Bell (Carleton): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, Friday and again today a parliamentary secretary has addressed questions to the ministry. I respectfully submit to Your Honour that they have a status which ought not to permit them to address questions to ministers of the crown—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): —and that such questions ought to be considered as out of order, from parliamentary secretaries in their proper status as junior ministers.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I would point out to the hon. member that whatever the status or additional responsibilities—

Some hon. Members: Order.