

**Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General and Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, I regret to say that the situation has deteriorated in Montreal this morning. As a result officials of the department have been in touch with the CSN. I have asked them to come up here tomorrow morning at which time I intend to make clear to them that if the illegal, irresponsible and violent strike of recent weeks does not terminate the government will have no choice but to take extraordinary measures.

### INDIAN AFFAIRS

#### ALLEGED MISUSE OF BAND FUNDS BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development or his Parliamentary Secretary with regard to the question I asked last Friday. Has the minister yet completed his inquiry into the allegations of irregularities on the part of departmental officials made by Indians of the Assumption Band Reserve, allegations which were made some time ago? Is he able now to report on this matter?

**Mr. Russell C. Honey (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, the inquiries are still continuing. The minister hopes he may be in a position to report tomorrow.

**Mr. Baldwin:** In view of the fact that the telegram from the Indian Band Council contains a request for a parliamentary inquiry, would the parliamentary secretary bring to the attention of the minister and the chairman of the appropriate committee the desirability of having a very careful and detailed parliamentary inquiry in respect of these allegations?

**Mr. Honey:** This will be given consideration, Mr. Speaker.

### PRIVILEGE

#### MR. DIEFENBAKER—ADEQUACY OF ANSWER TO ORDER PAPER QUESTION

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question of privilege arising out of the answer given today to question No. 1,033 which was placed on the Order Paper on February 2. The question was:

1. Under the Regional Development Incentives Act, in what places or areas in (a) Manitoba, (b)

### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

Quebec, (c) New Brunswick, (d) Newfoundland, (e) Ontario, were expenditures of moneys approved up to the end of December 31, 1969?

2. What was the amount of such expenditures for each of said projects?

The answer is not in keeping with the rules and indeed is a facetious brush-off. It is as follows:

This information was contained in the reports respecting the administration of the Regional Development Incentives Act tabled on October 27, 1969, December 4, 1969, and January 12, 1970.

Sir, I submit that the fact the government will have egg on its face if it answers properly is no justification for such an answer.

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to inquire into the matter and report on Wednesday.

### HEALTH AND WELFARE

#### NATIONAL HEALTH PLAN PAYMENTS FOR OPTOMETRIC SERVICES

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In his absence may I direct it to his Parliamentary Secretary who may wish to take it as notice and reply tomorrow. Now that a consensus has been reached among the provinces regarding optometric services, can the minister advise when these services will be acceptable for cost-sharing payments under the national health plan?

**Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice.

### NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE

#### USE BY THOSE WITH LOW INCOMES

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the observations made by the chairman of the board of trustees of the National Arts Centre regarding use of the centre by unemployed persons, I should like to ask the Secretary of State whether he would urge the board to give favourable consideration to use of the centre by people in the low income brackets such as old age pensioners and others?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member is making a representation which he must assume will be noted by the minister.