

The Address—Mr. Stenson

the Secretary of State. It is related to a news report which appeared this morning in *Le Devoir*, and which is entitled:

Balcer: to have the constitution brought up to date by the Senate.

Are they talking about the assistant chief of the Conservatives or the alleged lieutenant who is nothing of the sort, who would submit a brief to the government in order to have our constitution brought up to date by the Senate?

Mr. Dupuis: Georges-Etienne Balcer.

Mr. Caouette: Yes.

Hon. Maurice Lamontagne (Secretary of State): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

[Text]

PENSIONS

CANADA PLAN—REQUEST FOR PREPARATION OF WHITE PAPER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that consideration of the Canada pension plan is now to be taken soon—very soon, I hope—and in view of the fact that the white paper which she tabled last July was so useful in the discussions here and throughout the country, I wonder whether the government would consider preparing another white paper on the plan as it is now to be presented. Would the government also consider tabling that white paper ahead of the day on which the matter is to be debated, so we can have full information about the subject in this way? I cite as a precedent what is done by the Minister of Finance in presenting his budget white paper a day or so ahead of the budget itself, and I wonder whether the minister would consider tabling such a white paper in advance.

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I shall be very glad to consider this suggestion. Maybe there will not be time to do it, but we will consider it.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

PICTOU COUNTY, N.S.—REQUEST FOR ACTION TO RELIEVE UNEMPLOYMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Labour and ask him whether he has received a request from the district trades and labour council of Pictou county,

Nova Scotia, that a team from the Department of Labour, Department of Industry and Department of Trade and Commerce meet with their community organizations to discuss what can be done there about their serious unemployment situation? If so, what response has been made to this eminently sensible suggestion?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Yes, the request as mentioned by the hon. member has been made. I have referred the matter to the Atlantic development board for advice as to whether the board itself might wish to provide experts, or whether it might wish to obtain assistance from government departments. The matter has been dealt with in that way.

Mr. Douglas: Suppose the Atlantic development board does not act? Would it be the intention of the minister to arrange for a team from the three departments I have mentioned?

Mr. MacEachen: That is a hypothetical question, but it is something which would be considered if the Atlantic development board felt it could not act.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

CONSIDERATION OF FINANCING OF ACCESS ROADS

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Hon. J. P. Deschatelets (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Megantic (Mr. Langlois) has directed a question to me concerning the building of access roads. As this does not come under my department, I would ask the hon. member either to direct his question to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources or to put it on the order paper.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed, from Thursday, February 27, consideration of the motion of Mr. Jean-Pierre Cote (Longueuil) for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. Fred F. Stenson (Peterborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to take this opportunity today, in the closing days of this debate on the speech from the throne, to refer to the economy and how my own constituency is affected. First I should like to congratulate the mover and seconder of the address, as well as the new ministers and parliamentary secretaries who were appointed this session.