

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I did not approve the guide lines announced by the United States government. That was a decision they made on their own account.

**Mr. Hees:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. If the minister did not approve these guide lines, which affect Canada, did he disapprove of them, and did he communicate his disapproval on behalf of the Canadian government to the United States?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Nielsen:** The minister did not disapprove of them, either.

**Mr. Sharp:** In the discussions that I had on behalf of Canada with the United States government, my main concern was to assure that Canadian industry, provincial governments and municipalities would continue to have access to the United States market for long term funds. That was accomplished, and I think the results have been beneficial to Canada.

[Translation]

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker—

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. This is developing into a debate rather than a search for information. I therefore suggest that we give other hon. members an opportunity to ask questions.

[Translation]

**Mr. Caouette:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** I would suggest to the hon. member for Villeneuve that he ask not a supplementary question, but an ordinary question when his turn comes again a little later.

[English]

**COAL**

NOVA SCOTIA—INQUIRY AS TO ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, since no reference to this subject appeared in yesterday's throne speech, may I direct this question to the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys and ask how soon steps will be taken to implement the \$25 million assistance program to the Nova Scotia coal industry, as promised by the hon. member for Inverness-Richmond

[Mr. Hees.]

(Mr. MacEachen) in the recent election campaign.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** On a point of order, sir, could I get an answer from the Minister?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pépin (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys):** May I say that this whole question of coal in the Maritimes will be one of my greatest concerns. A report is at present being prepared by Mr. Donald. We should receive the report soon, and I can promise to give it my full attention.

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Minister, when he says "soon", how soon will "soon" be?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Pépin:** "Soon" means as soon as possible.

**Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys. Would the Minister tell the house that portion of the Donald report which the government studied, and indicate whether it shows any favour toward increased aid to the Nova Scotia coal industry?

**Mr. Pépin:** I do not believe it has been received yet, so I cannot say what it contains.

**Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South):** May I ask a supplementary question of the Prime Minister, who indicated in late October or early November that he had received a copy of the Donald report, although it was not a complete report. Will the Prime Minister make available to interested parties, especially the U.M.W.A., that part of the Donald report which has been received and studied in October?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** To my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, no part of that report has yet been received.

[Translation]

**CANADA STEAMSHIP LINES**

ABANDONMENT OF SAGUENAY RIVER CRUISES

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport who is certainly aware of the intention of Canada Steamship Lines to discontinue its cruises on the Saguenay and on the St. Lawrence River. Considering this decision which is liable to cause a loss of millions of dollars for the tourist industry in the province of Quebec