

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

prejudging of the task assigned to this task force or, indeed, that this body may now be dispensed with?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Such a question is not acceptable at this point. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition knows that in connection with speeches made by cabinet ministers outside the house, questions can only be asked of the Prime Minister to determine whether such speeches represent government policy.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Surely it is not intended by the rules that ministers can make irresponsible statements which have no rhyme or reason as far as cabinet policy is concerned, and not expect to be examined on them in this house. If, however, Your Honour holds that there must be a protective wall for these ministers—

**An hon. Member:** Shame.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:**—then I will reword my question and ask the minister whether the economic task force which was to determine the question of Canada's position relative to foreign investment and the like is no longer effective, and whether he was speaking for the government.

**Hon. Maurice Sauvé (Minister of Forestry and Rural Development):** I mentioned the task force twice in my speech. I said the formation of the task force would be very helpful in enabling the government to determine its policy.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** You prejudged it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I think I should bring to the attention of hon. members citation 171 (z) in Beauchesne's fourth edition, which states that a question must not—

—refer to speeches made outside the house; but in the case of a cabinet minister, it is permissible to ask Prime Minister whether such speech represents policy of government.

This, of course, is the citation to which I referred. It is part of the rules of the house.

**SHIPPING****NOVA SCOTIA—ASSISTANCE FOR SURVIVORS OF MEN LOST AT SEA**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the tragedies that occurred last week off the coast of Nova Scotia when 35 men lost their lives after a

series of bitter storms in the Atlantic, will the government give consideration to making a contribution to the survivors of the men lost on the *Polly and Robbie*, the *Iceland II* and the *Cape Bonnie*?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, this is a situation which very much touched the hearts of all of us. It was a terrible tragedy, and we should look into the possibility of anything we can do to make it less terrible for the survivors.

**LABOUR CONDITIONS****CAPE BRETON ISLAND—CRASH TRAINING PROGRAM FOR UNEMPLOYED**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, I wished to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration but in his absence may I direct it to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the serious, tragic and distressing unemployment situation, finally acknowledged by the minister of manpower in his statement yesterday, regarding unemployed steel workers at Sydney, may I ask the right hon. gentleman would he recommend to the cabinet, at a special meeting which I think should be called immediately for that purpose, that a massive crash training program for the unemployed should be instituted as quickly as possible on Cape Breton Island?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to discuss this with the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

**HOUSE OF COMMONS****SUGGESTED VISIT TO EXPO '67 BY PROTECTIVE STAFF**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to do by indirection something the rules would not permit me to do directly, but strictly in order I wish to address a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact that there will be at least a half million visitors touring these parliament buildings during this centennial year and that many will be asking questions of the protective staff about Expo '67, would the minister mind whispering in the ear of the appropriate authority that it might be a good idea for members of the protective staff to visit Expo in groups, so they can answer all questions accurately as a result of their personal experience?