

Inquiries of the Ministry

that they have been fired, something I questioned him about the other day, can the Minister now advise where these former government employees, numbering several hundred, are going to find employment? May I also ask the Minister if he is possibly being brainwashed by the repeated statements of his colleague the Minister of Finance, that we "never had it so good"?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the question is in order at all it is one for the order paper.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, these employees received their letters yesterday, about 24 hours ago.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am afraid the hon. Member is really beginning to dispute the suggestion or decision of the Chair, and it seems to me this is not the proper time to do so.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): On a point of order, this question is urgent. It is of national importance. It concerns a base of the Royal Canadian Navy. It concerns unemployment, which is of national importance. I would like to know what is going to be done on behalf of these several hundred—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would like to congratulate the hon. Member on calling attention to the point at issue.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): On a further point of order, Mr. Speaker, I did not bring up the question just for the sake of bringing it to the attention of the House. We have several hundred people who do not have any jobs.

Mr. Speaker: Order. If every single, individual Member of Parliament asked about unemployment in each individual constituency, I think the hon. Member would realize we would have to be here for 36 months.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): May I pose a question to you, Sir, with all due respect. When has it become out of order to ask questions about unemployment in this House? For years I have sat here and heard other Members ask such questions. Why has it become unpopular at this stage?

Mr. Speaker: The reason, it seems to me, is very simple. The same question has been asked quite often this session—

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): With no answer from the Government.

Mr. Speaker:—and it has been carefully considered several times by different Ministers. I think we have some very pressing and urgent questions coming up, and I do not see how the hon. Member can expect a complete answer to his question in the space of two minutes.

MID-CANADA RADAR LINE—MAINTENANCE
OF AIR STRIPS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. In relation to the phasing out of the mid-Canada radar line, can the Minister say whether consideration is being given by his Department or any other Government department to the maintenance of air strips such as the one at Winisk?

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. Member put this question on the Order Paper. It seems to me it was asked before.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO INCREASES IN
DISABILITY PENSIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, yesterday when outlining the business for the next two weeks or so the Prime Minister indicated that certain veterans legislation will be introduced. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs and ask him could he indicate just what is intended in this legislation and, specifically, whether substantial upward revisions in disability pensions are being considered.

Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of Government policy, and I think a proper answer would be that the bills will be introduced as soon as possible, I hope within the next 10 or 12 days, and at that time the intention will be made known to the House.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. Knowles: The hon. Member for Winnipeg North.

Mr. Speaker: May I point out that it is two minutes to four o'clock. Perhaps we should allow a little more leniency in anticipation of some new rules, but I point out that it is