

retirement age, according to their rank. What we are planning to do is give an additional option to serving members who retire after 20 years service. The only choice they now have is the return of contributions. We want to give them the option of a deferred annuity at the age of 60, which is a far cry from what the article states.

**Mr. MacLean:** The minister stated this option was open to personnel who have served 20 years or more. Did he not mean personnel who have served for 10 years or less?

**Mr. Cadieux (Labelle):** I thought I said 10 years; in any event I mean between 10 and 20 years.

**Mr. MacLean:** Yes.

**Mr. Cadieux (Labelle):** I think I should also state that at the present time the only choice for personnel retiring voluntarily is the return of contributions. This new option allows for a deferred annuity, if this is preferred. It must be pointed out, Mr. Speaker, that this would have to be in the form of legislation introduced in the house, and is now under government study.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister if progress is being made in connection with his stated hope that by spring something would be done to increase the pensions of those already retired?

**Mr. Cadieux (Labelle):** Progress is being made, I am sure, by the Department of Finance, which is co-ordinating our efforts.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Very little.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Can the Minister or Finance make a statement on the progress being made by him in connection with the pensions of all our federal superannuates?

**An hon. Member:** Come on Scrooge!

**Hon. W. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, we are still examining the problem.

[Translation]

#### FINANCE

POSSIBILITY OF HAVING MR. TOWERS BEFORE STANDING COMMITTEE

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson).

#### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

In view of the fact that Mr. Graham Towers, the first governor of the Bank of Canada, said yesterday that the federal budget is clearly out of control, does the Minister of Finance intend to call Mr. Towers before the committee on finance, trade and economic affairs to find out what his grounds are?

**Mr. Speaker:** The member is obviously alluding to the proceedings of a committee and I doubt that the question can be put to the minister himself in those terms.

#### AIRPORT

QUEBEC—LOCATION OF INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

**Mr. Marcel Roy (Laval):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Transport.

Does he intend to announce soon what site has been chosen for the new international airport?

**Mr. Speaker:** I suggest that this question, almost word for word, has been put several times in the last few days.

[English]

#### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

IRAQ—REACTION TO CANADIAN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIONS

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, is the Secretary of State for External Affairs now in a position to inform the house and the country of the reaction of the government of Iraq to the representations made by the Canadian government in connection with the slaughter of a number of persons during the last week?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** No, Mr. Speaker, I am not yet in that position. I have not yet received a report.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I would ask the minister, in view of the seriousness of the situation, does he not think that communication should be a little faster at a time like this? Is it not about time to make an announcement on the part of the government?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** He's going too slow for me.