

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Prime Minister would say what I am going to say, namely, that is the sort of question that might be put on the order paper.

Mr. Forrestall: You don't know the facts. I wish to direct a further supplementary question to the Minister of Regional Economic Development. When will the minister be in a position to make some announcement to the House, and to the people of the metropolitan area of Halifax-Dartmouth, about the intentions of Bell in connection with their takeover of the Fairey plant?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I cannot give any date.

Mr. Forrestall: As a final supplementary question may I ask the Minister of Manpower and Immigration what in God's name he is going to do with the 1,200 or 1,400 unemployed people there?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

NORTHERN SASKATCHEWAN—NEGOTIATIONS
RESPECTING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion related to negotiations with the provinces. Inasmuch as the minister was not sure yesterday what was taking place with respect to Saskatchewan, could he explain to the House the progress of the negotiations with that province with respect to making the facilities of his department available to northern Saskatchewan?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, we are negotiating with the ten Canadian provinces to determine special areas in connection with development programs. We expect that operations will start on April 1 next. I do not have the details of the proposed agreements which the provinces will have to sign, but even if I had them, I would not make them known before signature of the instruments by the provinces.

[English]

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Another supplementary, if I may, Mr. Speaker. The minister, as I understood him to say, indicated there are agreements in existence with some provinces—from his gesture I take it he did not really say that.

[Mr. Forrestall.]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

PROPOSED TAKEOVER OF DENISON MINES
BY U.S. INTERESTS

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. What is the purpose of the negotiations between the government and the Roman and Hudson's Bay interests? Is the purpose to enable these two corporations to consummate the arrangement which they originally had in mind despite the policy announced by the Prime Minister the other night?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, would the minister inform the House why the government considers it necessary to negotiate with a corporation seeking to sell an interest in another corporation to still another corporation? Why is the government involved in this kind of matter?

Mr. Greene: Well, Mr. Speaker, these corporations and their officials wished to see us after the announcement by the Prime Minister, and as with any citizens we are always happy to see them about their problems.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister whether he can now, and if he cannot now whether he would at an appropriate time under motions, tell the House what he meant by the statement that it may be possible for Roman and Hudson's Bay to carry out their intentions so long as the uranium remains in Canadian hands? Exactly what is it the minister was aiming at in that suggestion to the people of Canada?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, I think the statement of the Prime Minister speaks for itself. The government has announced its decision that this vast deposit of uranium should remain in Canadian hands, and if there is anything we can do to assure that continuity certainly the government will be very glad to be helpful in that regard.

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

DAIRYING—POLICY RESPECTING GRANTS

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture.