

*Questions*

independence of action in discharging any of the statutory obligations laid upon it by virtue of Section 9 of the Atlantic Development Board Act as amended in Chap. 5, 12 Eliz. II, 1963?

4. Will the Atlantic Development Board continue to be able to make plans, proposals and recommendations and carry out certain works, subject only to approval of the Treasury Board and the Governor-in-Council, or will it, in the future, have to receive approval of the departmental deputy-minister?

5. Is it the intention of the government to put the present Atlantic Development Fund amounting to some \$150 millions in a common pool of funds for the development purposes or will the Atlantic Development Board still have access to this Fund as a separate and distinct entity?

6. What is the intention of the government in regard to other funds now administered by the Atlantic Development Board—specifically, statutory road money amounting to \$55 millions; the Bell Island Fund for housing, etc., of \$1,750,000; the special transfer to the Government of the Province of Nova Scotia of \$2 millions in connection with the take-over of the DOSCO Steel installation on Cape Breton Island?

**Mr. Russell C. Honey (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Forestry and Rural Development):** 1. The Minister of Forestry and Rural Development, 12 July 1968.

2. No.

3. (a) No; (b) No; (c) No.

4. The Atlantic Development Board, under its legislation, does not make submissions to Treasury Board. It makes recommendations to the minister as to submissions. No change has been made in this procedure.

5 and 6. Any changes would be a matter of future legislation.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I realize that this is about the fifth time of asking, but I am still looking for answers to my questions about the pensions of retired civil servants. They were filed on September 12. How many more times must I ask?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding the hon. member will have to ask every day until the 15th.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** I shall do so.

[*Translation*]

**MOTION FOR PAPERS**

**Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, would you kindly call notice of motion No. 50?

[*Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys).*]

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remaining notices of motions be allowed to stand.

[*English*]

**MOVE OF AIR CANADA BASE FROM WINNIPEG**

**Motion No. 50—Mr. Fortin:**

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of all extracts of the minutes of the Board of Directors of Air Canada concerning the move of the maintenance base from Winnipeg to Montreal and of all correspondence exchanged between the government and Air Canada in connection with this matter.

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, as all members of parliament will appreciate, this motion relates to correspondence that has always been claimed to be privileged, not public documents. The tabling of such items as the minutes of meetings of the boards of directors of crown corporations and correspondence between the government and such crown corporations could create a precedent that would require the production of documents in the future that would interfere with the competitive position of the companies. For these reasons I would ask the hon. member to agree to withdraw his motion.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, as it is very difficult to obtain information from crown corporations, I should like to transfer this notice of motion for debate, since I do not accept what the Minister of Transport has just said.

[*English*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Transferred for debate, pursuant to standing order 47.

**CANADIAN CONSTITUTION**

**QUEBEC—REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF CONFERENCE**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question arising out of the illness of the Prime Minister of Quebec and the report that the government of Quebec is seeking to have the federal-provincial constitutional conference postponed. What is the position of the government of Canada with regard to this reported request from the government of Quebec?

**Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I received from the Prime Minister of Quebec