

doing their best to see that the contract is not cancelled. We are still in the midst of legal negotiations.

### FINANCE

#### INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK—LOAN APPLICATION INFORMATION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. C. W. Carter (Burin-Burgeo):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. My question arises out of a question which I placed on the order paper and the reply which is recorded at page 1277 of *Hansard*. Will the minister explain to the house why the information as to the number or loan applications to the industrial development bank last year is not available?

**Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will put his question on the order paper I shall be glad to look into the matter.

**Mr. Benidickson:** It is the reply he is talking about.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** At page 1277 the answer is given that the information asked for by the hon. member is not available. That was the answer to the question he put on the order paper.

**Mr. Carter:** My question now is, would the Minister of Finance explain why it is not available?

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** I can surmise that the statistics are not compiled, and certainly are not available as yet in the form in which the hon. gentleman sought them.

#### "CANADIAN ECONOMIC OUTLOOK FOR 1959"— SUGGESTED VARIANCE WITH BUDGET FORECAST

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate):** I wonder whether I could ask the Minister of Finance if it is correct that the Economic Outlook for 1959 gave a forecast greatly at variance with the forecast in the minister's budget, and if that is the reason it is being kept secret? If not, what is the reason?

**Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I think I can say that I am sure I do not know the answer to the first part of this question in three parts. But I can say this to the hon. member, that if the forecast he speaks of in some report does not agree with the forecast that was made in the budget, then to that extent the former forecast perhaps was lacking in the accuracy that he will find and I am sure will commend in the budget forecast.

### Inquiries of the Ministry

**Mr. Pickersgill:** May I ask a supplementary question. Did I understand the minister to say that this document was so well hidden that he has not yet seen it?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I think the hon. member's question relates to a matter on which the house took a decision last week.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** That is correct, sir.

### ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

#### RIVERS, MAN.—OPENING OF SERVICE STATION ON GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. W. M. Martin (Timmins):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Has the minister received a letter from Mr. G. B. Huehn, secretary manager of the Manitoba automotive trades association, Winnipeg, which alleges that air force personnel at Rivers, Manitoba are opening a service station on government property to sell automotive and petroleum products to the general public? If so, would the minister care to comment on this allegation?

**Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence):** I thank the hon. member for sending me notice of his question. I got in touch with my staff both at national defence headquarters and here immediately before coming into the house, and no such letter has been received in my office.

### LABOUR CONDITIONS

#### POINT EDWARD NAVAL BASE—REFIT OF SHIPS

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to reply to a question which was asked last week by the hon. member for Cape Breton North and Victoria, who asked if the frigate H.M.C.S. *New Waterford* had been scheduled for a refit at Point Edward naval base. The answer is in the negative. This ship was allocated to the Saint John Dry Dock Company at East Saint John, New Brunswick, by the maritime commission on December 22, 1959, and a contract has been let by the Department of Defence Production. However, the Canadian government ship *Sackville*, will be arriving at Point Edward for refit on March 14.

### THE BUDGET

#### INQUIRY AS TO PROBABLE DATE OF PRESENTATION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. W. M. Benidickson (Kenora-Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Minister of Finance could indicate to the house when he might be bringing down his budget for the forthcoming year.