Inquiries of the Ministry

comprehensively the terms of reference and the objectives?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): As I have already indicated, we are prepared to participate with the provinces—and the government has so indicated to them—in experimental guaranteed annual income projects. Manitoba has put forward a project that we have indicated we are prepared to look at, and I believe Ontario is considering one also.

Mr. Marshall: In view of the answer given would the minister advise whether, since the government is making this study, the family income security legislation just introduced will meet the needs of the people, or does this study mean that it will not meet the needs of the poor people of Canada?

THE MINISTRY

SUGGESTED REPLACEMENT OF MINISTER OF FINANCE BECAUSE OF ALLEGED UNCERTAINTY OF ECONOMIC ANALYSES

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): I should like to come back to earlier questions on the economy. Because many of us are concerned about the Prime Minister's uncertainty regarding economic trends, is the Prime Minister prepared now to admit that he has some very serious doubts about the economic analyses put forward by the Minister of Finance and his department with respect to where we are and where we are going and, if he does, has he given any consideration to asking the Minister of Finance whether he would voluntarily step aside and let someone else take over that portfolio?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

GRAIN

STUDIES OF HANDLING AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration who is in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. Has the study on grain handling and transportation been completed and when can we expect him to make it public?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Certain parts of these studies have reached a stage at which discussions are going on in a confidential way with some of the companies most interested in them. No decision has been made yet about the date when the final form of the study may be available.

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): I should like to direct a supplementary question to the minister responsible for the Wheat Board. Does the report make any recommendations concerning the building of inland grain terminals on the Prairies for cleaning and processing grain in order to make the operation more efficient?

[Mr. Marshall.]

Mr. Lang: As has been indicated many times, the studies are very comprehensive and deal with a whole variety of possibilities, including the cost of the existing system. The basic object is to put the facts of the various choices before the producers so as to enable them to make a decision about the eventual system. The studies as such, therefore, do not make recommendations but set out facts and figures which will give some guidance to the people who will want to look at them.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

CLOSING OF PULP MILL, SHEET HARBOUR, N.S.—
GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Elmer MacKay (Central Nova): I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the critical economic condition which besets the east shore of Nova Scotia, occasioned by the closure of the Scott Maritimes Pulp Mill, practically the community's only industry, can the minister tell us what steps, if any, are being taken to alleviate the situation?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I will inquire and report to the hon. member.

Mr. Muir: Don't you know anything at all?

[Later:]

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): My question is supplementary to an earlier one asked by my colleague from Nova Scotia, and I direct it to either the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion or the Prime Minister. I am very disturbed. By nature of the reply I wonder whether the implication is that the Premier of Nova Scotia has not been in touch personally with the Prime Minister or with the minister in connection with the situation at Sheet Harbour?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Kootenay West.

Mr. Hees: No answer, as usual.

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I must make some comment on the very misleading statements made by elected representatives both in the government opposite and in the government of Nova Scotia in regard to what is being done by these governments with respect to the unemployed at Sheet Harbour. I must object in the strongest possible terms. They have either been in touch or they have not been in touch, and I think the people of Sheet Harbour are entitled to a direct answer.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, the answer is the same. I think I am authorized to make sure of the facts before giving an answer. I will do that immediately and you will get the answer tomorrow.