

by the Prime Minister of January 23 referred to a possible claim in respect of \$1,700,000. The government has yet to indicate whether it has any claim on that amount. How can it give something away which it does not know it has? The Minister of Justice has been waiting since October to answer that one.

Mr. Trudeau: You have not asked me the question.

ATLANTIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

REQUEST FOR ASSESSMENT OF TRANSFERS
BETWEEN DEFENCE BASES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Digby-Annapolis-Kings): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare in his capacity as the minister responsible for the Atlantic Development Board. Will he inform the house whether an economist from the Atlantic Development Board assessed the implications of the phasing-out operation at Summerside? As he is the minister from Nova Scotia I should like to ask him whether the same consideration can be given to Nova Scotia by having an economist from the Atlantic Development Board assess the implications of the move from Greenwood to Summerside.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister may reply to the question in his official capacity but not in his capacity as the minister from Nova Scotia.

Mr. Nowlan: Will the minister in his reply to the first part of the question confirm that an Atlantic Development Board economist or staff member made an assessment of the economic implications of the phase-out of the base at Summerside, and will like consideration be extended by assessing the economic implications of the move from Greenwood?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I disagree with the expression "phase-out" as there is no phase-out in the normal sense. I will be glad to check with the Atlantic Development Board and give an answer in detail tomorrow.

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Mr. Speaker, will the minister be so kind as to advise whether he has registered his protest against the moving of the establishment from Greenwood to Summerside?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. MacEachen: I have been very closely involved in discussions about this whole matter with the Minister of National Defence.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Is this the minister's way of emphasizing his weakness in the cabinet?

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

REQUEST FOR ANSWER TO QUESTION
ON ORDER PAPER

On the orders of the day:

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Secretary of State as I believe she is the person to whom questions having to do with several departments should be directed. I have had question No. 741 on the order paper since November 23. It relates to the number of women employed in federal undertakings. Will the minister see whether I can get an answer before parliament recesses?

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Secretary of State): I cannot promise that, Mr. Speaker, as the question involves the total number of women employed in all services, including the public service of Canada, industries and other undertakings. It takes quite a long time to gather information to answer this type of question. We are trying to gather that information but, of course, each day that goes by more women are involved. Perhaps that will please the hon. lady.

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): The question has been on the order paper since November 23.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

SASKATCHEWAN—IMPOSITION OF
DETERRENT HOSPITAL FEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosithern): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Was it at his request that the deterrent fee of \$2.50 was brought forward under the Saskatchewan hospitalization program?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that this question is not in order.

Mr. Nasserden: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. Part of this fee would normally be paid by the federal government and there is a suspicion that the government has used this as part of—