

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I hesitate to put my question to the Prime Minister in view of the way he has been fielding questions today, but now that the Minister of Trade and Commerce has made all possible mileage out of the wheat announcement may I ask whether it is the Prime Minister's intention to give him his release.

PUBLIC SERVICE**SUPERANNUATED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES—REQUEST FOR INCREASED PENSIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. R. A. Bell (Carleton): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister whether he could be persuaded today to grasp what probably will be his last opportunity to fulfil the hope he expressed last December 15, that before his retirement it would be possible to provide an increase in pensions for other retired public servants?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I really should not even take notice of that question because I will have an interest in that matter after I retire.

FINANCE**CANADIAN POSITION AT MEETING OF MONETARY FUND**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister. Yesterday I asked a question regarding the Stockholm conference of the International Monetary Fund. The Prime Minister was kind enough to indicate the Canadian representation and some of the agenda. In the light of reports that Canada might play a part as peacemaker in the confrontation expected at this conference, and subsequent to the visit to Ottawa yesterday of the French parliamentary committee on finance, could we have a statement regarding Canada's position at this conference? If a confrontation should develop I think many Canadians would want to know which side we are on.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sure the hon. member will recognize that he is asking for the type of statement which should be made on motions.

[Mr. Schreyer.]

REPORTED STATEMENT AS TO POSSIBLE DEVALUATION OF DOLLAR

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Prime Minister in the absence of the Minister of Finance. Will the Prime Minister tell us whether the former president of the privy council was expressing a conclusion of the government when he said the Canadian dollar would have had to be devalued if the United States had not relaxed its restrictions last month?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I should remind the hon. member for Edmonton West that he has referred to the former president of the privy council. The rule is that hon. members can ask questions about statements made outside the house by members of the cabinet.

Mr. Lambert: With the greatest of respect, Mr. Speaker, the decision was reportedly taken when that hon. gentleman was a member of the cabinet.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, former ministers rarely express the views of the government.

CANADA LABOUR CODE**INQUIRY AS TO IMPLEMENTATION OF REPORT ON TRANSPORT INDUSTRIES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. N. Ormiston (Melville): Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago the Minister of Labour promised the house that an analysis would be made of the Murchison report and that a statement would be made about possible government action. Is the minister now in a position to make the statement to which he earlier made reference?

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to inform the hon. member and other interested members that the Murchison report, together with recommendations based therein, which were made by my department after discussions with the teamsters' council, the trucking companies and other interested bodies and persons, have been laid before the government. A decision has been reached and an order in council implementing same is in the course of preparation. I hope to issue a press release on the subject before the end of the week.