

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

not say that. I support fully our present policy. I am a member of the cabinet and I intend to support it. I said that future alternatives were up for discussion.

**Mr. Speaker:** I bring to the attention of hon. members that the only question that may be asked of the Prime Minister is whether the statement attributed to the minister represents government policy.

**Mr. Baldwin:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I was simply asking the Prime Minister whether the statement which I suggest was made meets the earlier guide lines he laid down in his answer to me yesterday.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I was not taking issue with the question but with the question of privilege.

**Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, in view of what I have just heard from the Postmaster General I can only say the question is hypothetical.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Table the transcript, then.

**HOUSING****DIRECTION OF PENSION FUND HOLDINGS INTO CAPITAL MARKET**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Will the minister tell the house whether, in view of the Minister of Transport's comments in Halifax and St. John's, he is giving serious consideration to taking steps to direct pension fund holdings into the capital market for housing?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I have not had the opportunity to read the report of what the Minister of Transport said in Halifax and St. John's. I assure my hon. friend that anything the Minister of Transport says is taken under serious consideration by the government.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We are running out of time, but perhaps the house might agree to allow the hon. member for Palliser to ask a question.

**DIVORCE****EXTENSION OF JURISDICTION TO COUNTY AND DISTRICT COURTS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Stan Schumacher (Palliser):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. [Mr. Kierans.]

Since it is a fact that some 1,400 divorce actions are still awaiting trial in the Supreme Court of Ontario and the court expects an average delay of nine or ten months from the time the actions are filed, and since the same situation is developing in other provinces and imposes severe hardship on individuals, would the minister say whether the government is giving any consideration to changes in the divorce legislation that would, for example, give jurisdiction to county and district courts or otherwise enable divorce applications to be dealt with in a more efficient and considerate manner?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member's time has expired.

**INDUSTRY****RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY OF MINE WASTE HEAPS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday and yesterday three questions were directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources relating to strip mining waste. A statement was promised for today. May I ask the acting minister, perhaps, if he is prepared to make that statement at this time?

**Hon. Arthur Laing (Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, statements have been made in the province of British Columbia by Premier Bennett and by the minister of mines, Mr. Richter, which clearly indicate and acknowledge that this is a provincial problem and is directly within the competence of the government of the province of British Columbia and the provincial legislature.

**SUPPLY**

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Béchard in the chair.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

1. General administration, including grants as detailed in estimates, \$31,015,000.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Vote No. 1 will be found at page 392 of the blue book and the details are listed on page 394. For the information of hon. members these estimates were last considered on November 4 and 19.

**Mr. Horner:** Mr. Chairman, I wish to speak on item 1 of the public works estimates. I have long been interested in public works