

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Hon. Leo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence):** Not necessarily, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Forrestall:** As a supplementary question, can the minister indicate whether the Department of National Defence is now giving consideration to an early decommissioning of H.M.C.S. *Bonaventure*?

**Mr. Cadieux (Labelle):** Mr. Speaker, we are considering all sorts of options and that may be one of them, but we have not decided on what the form of the new posture will be. The given role has been changed to a degree—as a matter of fact, it has been augmented—and we have still to determine how we are going to apply the policy.

## LEGISLATION

INQUIRY RESPECTING FEDERAL  
CO-OPERATIVES MEASURE

**Mr. John Burton (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Will the government introduce its long promised federal co-operatives act before the summer recess?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the legislation is being drafted by the Department of Justice, which has had an extremely heavy work load this spring. I am hopeful of being able to introduce the bill for first reading before the summer adjournment so that people can have sufficient time to study it and make representations to me. If I am not successful in introducing it before the summer recess, however, an opportunity will be afforded to the provincial governments and other interested parties to make representations to me on the bill.

**Mr. Burton:** As a supplementary question, has the minister consulted with the co-operative organizations in preparing this legislation and do they agree that it takes years to prepare such a bill?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

MEASURE TO ESTABLISH INDEPENDENCE OF  
AUDITOR GENERAL

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I do not want the President of the Treasury Board to move with the unseemly haste with which the

Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs moved, but can he tell the house when he intends to introduce the legislation promised by the Prime Minister with regard, specifically, to the independent position of the Auditor General?

**Mr. Trudeau:** I never promised that.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Yes, you did.

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I was not aware of any such undertaking having been given but I will do some research to see whether there was such an undertaking.

## CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

CONSULTATIONS RESPECTING PENSIONS OF  
RETIRED EMPLOYEES

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Now that the minister is obviously well established in his new department—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):**—is he in a position to report on a matter about which I questioned him the first day he took office? What progress is he making in his consultations with Canadian National Railways about increasing the pensions of its retired employees?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I can assure my hon. friend that I am not that well entrenched in my department yet, but I am working on it.

## INDIAN AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO PRESENTATION OF  
WHITE PAPER

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct this question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Can he predict with some certainty when he will be presenting his white paper, or whatever it is, on Indian affairs?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I hope it will be between the 15th and 30th of June, but I cannot make any promise regarding the date.