

question to the Minister of Finance. Since the minister indicated a few minutes ago that the government has not lost interest in tax reform, does the government expect in the near future to present its views on the Carter commission report on taxation and permit debate in this house on this most important matter?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, although I would not like to be tied to this, may I say our present intention is to introduce sometime early next year a draft bill dealing with tax reform which, after first reading, will be referred to a committee of the house. However, this is subject to change.

COAL

REQUEST FOR MAINTENANCE OF DOMINION BOARD

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the responsible minister whether the government will give consideration to the plea of a charter member of the Dominion Coal Board, William C. Whittaker of Calgary, when he said that the board should be maintained with such modifications as these changing times require.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Fraser Valley.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, may I have an answer from the responsible minister?

Mr. Trudeau: It is not an urgent question.

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I read the representations of that hon. gentleman with considerable interest.

TRANSPORT

MELVILLE, SASK.—PROPOSED SHIPMENT OF POTASH BY TRUCK

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Transport I should like to address my question to the acting minister or his parliamentary secretary. Is he aware of the situation that is developing at the potash mine near Esterhazy, Saskatchewan? International Minerals has proposed trucking potash by rail to a United States border point for shipment via rail—

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the hon. member kindly state his question.

Mr. Nystrom: I should like to ask whether the minister is aware of this situation, and in view of the situation what does he propose to do to prevent economic damage to the rail centre of Melville?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would invite the hon. member to place his question on the order paper.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

AUTOMOBILES—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON PRICES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct this question to the minister of consumer affairs. In view of the strong statement made this week end to the automobile companies in the United States asking them to hold their prices because of their high profits, is the minister considering making a similar statement in Canada?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the operation of the automobile agreement falls under the jurisdiction of my colleague the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and I think the question should be directed to him.

Mr. Saltsman: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the responsibility of the minister of consumer affairs for prices to consumers, I was wondering whether he would care to make a statement.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Saltsman: Then I will direct my question to the appropriate minister and ask him whether he intends to make a statement regarding these prices in Canada.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I think we should first know what will be the prices of automobiles in Canada. If there is an increase, then I think we should give it some study before making any pronouncements on the subject.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister admit that it would then be too late to do anything?

Mr. Speaker: Order.