

time to time and to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be deemed advisable, and that standing order 66 be suspended in relation thereto; and that a message be sent to the Senate requesting that house to unite with this house for the above purpose, and to select, if the Senate deems it advisable, some of its members to act on the proposed joint committee.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to section 2 of standing order 21 this government notice of motion stands transferred to and ordered for consideration under government orders at the next sitting of the house.

HOUSING

REPORTED SHORTAGE OF MORTGAGE MONEY

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): In the absence of the Minister of Labour, Mr. Speaker, I direct this question to the Prime Minister, who I know has received correspondence, telegrams and the like from house builders across Canada relative to the shortage of funds available to them under Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Would the Prime Minister be prepared to have this matter looked into in view of the widespread criticism—possibly a better word would be the request—of builders everywhere across Canada that unless something is done in this connection there will be a very large reduction in employment and detriment to the economy as a whole?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): The Minister of Labour, I believe, made a statement on this matter yesterday. I can only add to that statement what I believe he said also at that time, that the question is being looked into as a matter of urgency and importance.

Mr. G. L. Chatterton (Esquimalt-Saanich): May I ask a supplementary question. Will the Prime Minister give consideration to making further moneys available in the form of direct loans if the situation becomes critical?

Mr. Pearson: That is one aspect of the question that is being considered.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

GEORGE VICTOR SPENCER—INVESTIGATION BY R.C.M.P. INTO DEATH

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): May I direct a question to the Solicitor General, and ask him if the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have been asked to make an

23033—260½

Inquiries of the Ministry

investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of George Victor Spencer.

Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert): You said it.

Mr. Douglas: I mean Spencer. Has any report been received?

Hon. L. T. Pennell (Solicitor General): I understand a full investigation was carried out, there was a coroner's inquest and an autopsy performed. So far as I am aware, Mr. Speaker, the death was from natural causes.

Mr. Douglas: I was referring particularly to the circumstances surrounding the death. Will the minister ascertain how it was possible for a man whom the Prime Minister said was under surveillance in order to protect him against possible assassination could have been dead for several days before the R.C.M. Police became aware of this fact?

Mr. Pennell: I am speaking from memory now, but I believe the statement that was made in the house was that the surveillance in this case would be adapted to the necessities of the situation. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police at all times continued to take such steps as were deemed necessary in the circumstances of the case.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question?

Was the R.C.M.P. given orders to keep under constant surveillance Mr. Spencer's property or house?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not think that question is in order. The hon. member is asking if the R.C.M.P. was given orders or instructions. In my opinion, that question is not in order at this time.

[English]

REQUEST FOR ROYAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE ORGANIZED CRIME

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the statement made yesterday, I believe, by the Minister of Justice for the province of Quebec, can the Prime Minister say whether he or his government has received any formal request or any request from the province of Quebec for the setting up of a royal commission to investigate organized crime in Canada?