

whether the government is contemplating legislation during this session which would compel companies in this country to give substantial advance notice to employees who are about to be laid off?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in respect of the first part of the question I cannot comment on a statement of facts of which I am not aware, but I will discuss them with the Minister of Labour. I suggest that the legislation referred to by the hon. member is something he should be proposing to the provincial government, not the federal government.

FINANCE

ASSISTANCE TO MUNICIPALITIES TO CLEAN UP SEWAGE PROBLEMS

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, in view of President Nixon's proposal for a new federal-municipal financing arrangement that in five years will provide every community which needs it with secondary waste treatment, and also special additional treatment in areas of special needs, including communities on the Great Lakes, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance whether the federal government will match this proposal with a real drive to assist all Canadian municipalities to clean up their sewage problems in five years, with special assistance to those Canadian areas where special need is indicated, such as the Great Lakes system?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I should like to suggest to the hon. member that, while the minister obviously wants to reply, the hon. member is inviting the minister to make a statement which to my way of thinking would be of a rather general nature and ought to be made on motions.

Mr. Harding: Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege, might I ask the minister if he would make a statement on motions and when?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): I would very much like to look at the statement of Mr. Nixon which I have not seen to date. The federal government has been assisting with sewage disposal for municipalities for I believe about eight years now, so we are probably about eight years ahead of the United States.

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

NATIONAL FILM BOARD

RECONSIDERATION OF ORDER LEVYING CHARGES FOR USE OF FILMS

Mr. Gaétan-J. Serré (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State.

In view of the fact that the National Film Board's decision to set charges for the use of their films, which would prevent a very great number of citizens from using that precious service, does the minister intend to make representations to the NFB, urging them to reconsider their decision?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I have already replied to that question several times. Barring new developments, the NFB's decision has already been reconsidered and, as far as the NFB is concerned, reconfirmed. If however new factors are brought forward, it may be changed.

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a supplementary question to the Secretary of State.

Was he consulted before the NFB took that decision?

Mr. Pelletier: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

TAXATION

WHITE PAPER ON REFORM—CONFLICTING ESTIMATES OF INCREASED REVENUES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance, in light of the statement reported last evening and attributed to the Prime Minister of Ontario, which reaffirmed Ontario's calculation of \$1.3 billion as the figure of increased revenue represented by the white paper, whether the minister has altered his calculation or can he report any progress to the House with regard to reaching a consensus on the matter?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, as I reported to the House, from a cursory glance at the Ontario figures I found an error of \$200 million. We offered to meet with the provincial officials immediately and they asked for a postponement of ten days to check their figures.

Mr. Stanfield: In light of the statement of the Minister of Finance and the fact that he is sticking to his position, I wonder whether he is prepared to disclose to the House the