

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, will the changes about which discussions have taken place include a change in the date when the estate tax bill comes into force, an increase in the ceiling exemption and the allowance of a period of five years over which the estate tax may be paid under the new provisions?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is wrong on most of his queries.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

HOUSINGADVANCE COPIES OF TASK FORCE REPORT—
ACTION OF *TIME* MAGAZINE

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, this question is addressed to the Minister of Transport. It is in respect of a matter concerning which I had thought a question would have been asked before this. Did the minister make available advance copies of the housing task force report to the press gallery, on orders they keep silent about its contents until the two o'clock deadline.

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Bell: Did this apply to *Time* magazine?

Mr. Hellyer: They might have had one this morning, Mr. Speaker. They did not have one earlier. If you read their report carefully you will realize that they could not possibly have had the report.

Mr. Bell: Do I understand the minister to say this did apply to *Time* magazine?

Mr. Hellyer: Maybe for next week's edition, not for last.

Mr. Bell: Did they have access in any way to information on the housing task force report?

Mr. Hellyer: To the best of my knowledge, they did not have a copy of the report. The task force reports were all locked up at the Queen's Printer until Monday night, after *Time* had gone to press.

They might very easily have had access to someone who had knowledge of what was in the task force report. That is the only explanation I have for the two direct quotations they have. I can make inquiries as to what

[Mr. Speaker.]

happened and provide an answer for my hon. friend.

Mr. Bell: Will the minister make inquiries along this line, to make certain that nobody in his department had any contact with *Time* magazine on this subject, in advance?

Mr. Hellyer: My department is so large, Mr. Speaker, that would require a big inquiry.

[Translation]

SHIPPINGREQUEST FOR LOWER RATES ON ST.
LAWRENCE SEAWAY

Mr. Henri Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the minister of Transport. In view of the many protests by shipowners, grain and ore shippers and lock users, with regard to the high toll rates on the St. Lawrence Seaway, would the minister say whether he is considering a reduction of these rates in order to make water transportation more economical?

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion, the hon. member's question tends to be too general. The hon. member asked the minister to make a statement with regard to the general policy of his department or the government and I think that such a statement should be made on motions.

[English]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the government house leader whether, as a result of yesterday's experience with committee meetings, especially the meeting of the fisheries committee, he can confirm that explicit orders were given to his colleagues to vote against all constructive amendments moved by members of opposition parties?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

HOUSING

REMOVAL OF TAX ON BUILDING MATERIALS

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Transport whether the recommendations of the task force to remove the 11 per cent sales tax on building materials was taken from the Conservative election platforms of 1965 or 1968?

Mr. Hellyer: It was in spite of that.