

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that we all return here at ten o'clock to discuss fudgsicles.

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, may I say with respect that this matter has already been worked on, worked on and worked on through correspondence with no result, and this is the only place I know of where I can now refer to it.

Mr. Speaker: I fully recognize the situation and appreciate that the matter is of some importance and of some urgency. If the hon. member wishes to have the matter considered later on at the time of adjournment she might give me the appropriate notice.

FINANCESAVINGS BOND PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS BY
CANADIAN SUBSIDIARIES OF U.S.
COMPANIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Minister of Finance. Is the minister aware that some Canadian subsidiaries of American parent companies are refusing to put into operation the payroll deduction plan for employees to buy Canada savings bonds?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): This, of course, is a voluntary matter, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of the particular circumstances raised by my hon. friend but I would be very pleased to receive information from him in this regard.

Mr. Hales: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I will supply the minister with the name of the company. Would the minister ask all these companies to put into operation the guide lines which the government announced some time ago in order that they may be good, corporate Canadian citizens?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, I will be very pleased to receive more information from my hon. friend. I do not think the guide lines dealt with Canada savings bonds, but I would like to encourage all companies in Canada to allow their employees to purchase Canada savings bonds through payroll deductions and, indeed, I have written a good many letters in this regard.

[Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway).]

THE MINISTRYREQUEST FOR PERSONAL STATEMENT BY
TRANSPORT MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Transport. I express some concern and surprise in this regard and ask the minister whether he is prepared to seek the consent of the house to revert to motions at this time in order to make a statement concerning current reports involving himself, certain video recording equipment and Mr. Jeffrey Sterling, a Canadian with a substantial interest in the broadcasting industry.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will appreciate that I must have some reservation about the question he is now asking. I would advise him that an hon. member has proposed, by way of a written question, a question along the same lines as the one now asked by the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East. I could not find my way clear to accept the question as asked because it is a well known rule of this house that questions cannot be asked which imply accusations of misconduct against any other hon. member. The only way this can be done is by putting the question directly by way of a question of privilege and, as the hon. member knows, along the lines of the precedents which are well known to the house, to make a specific charge. I am afraid that is the only way this kind of question can be asked.

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order in connection with your ruling. I just wanted to clarify something and I certainly did not intend to imply any misconduct whatsoever on the part of the minister. I am simply asking the minister whether he would not wish to revert to motions in order to clear his own name. I did not impugn it; he impugned it himself.

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, in regard to what Your Honour has just said I find it a little difficult to see how under the circumstances it would be possible for the minister himself to be impugned as suggested. Perhaps Your Honour has not seen nor heard of these things, but I would ask you to take judicial notice of them. There are some rumours or stories circulating in connection with the Minister of Transport in his position as Minister of Transport. The hon. member is merely asking whether the