

report, and the fact that funds were sufficient for only 60 per cent of research projects at the University of Toronto, will the Minister of Finance urgently consider doubling the per capita grant so that researchers will be kept in Canada and our medical schools built up?

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance): The hon. Member was kind enough to send me notice of this question. It seems to be inviting the Government to make a statement on a very important matter of policy which I can assure him is receiving close attention. I think it would be inappropriate for me to comment upon it on orders of the day.

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Royal): May I ask a supplementary question. I wonder if the Minister could tell the House whether he expects to make an early announcement authorizing an increase in the per capita university grant from \$2 to \$3?

Mr. Gordon: It would seem to me that comes under the same general heading.

Mr. Fairweather: May I therefore prick the conscience of the Government on this matter at ten o'clock?

Mr. Gordon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, if this question is not in order, then it would not seem to me appropriate to discuss it at ten o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Minister said that in his opinion it was a matter of policy. I shall look into it and restudy the question when I get the blues.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

REPORTED STATEMENTS BY PREMIERS OF SASKATCHEWAN AND BRITISH COLUMBIA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister. In a statement attributed to the Premier of Saskatchewan, Mr. Thatcher, as well as to the Premier of British Columbia, it was indicated that they could not get along with the Federal Government and that they might sever the Federal relationship. As a resident of Saskatchewan I am disturbed about the situation. Will the Prime Minister inform me of the difficulties he has encountered?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, perhaps my hon. friend will

Inquiries of the Ministry

give me some diplomatic advice in that regard. I expect to be in Regina next Monday and I hope to have an opportunity for an exchange of views with the gentleman in question.

SHIPPING

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON RECENT COLLISION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I wonder could I direct a question to the Minister of Transport and ask whether he would have anything to relate to the House about the collision between the U.S. ship *Cedarville* and the Norwegian ship *Topoalsfjord* which occurred just a few days ago, and the deaths which resulted therefrom?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I had not thought of communicating anything to the House about this, but if there were anything the hon. gentleman was particularly interested in I would be glad to make inquiries.

Mr. Howard: Periodically over the last few days I have asked the Minister questions about safety precautions and safety factors relating to collisions between ships along the Seaway and on the Great Lakes, and this is one of those matters. When the Minister said he did not feel it worth while to bring this to the attention of the House, it is a sad reflection on his own interest in safety on ships travelling on the Seaway.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I did not say it was not worth while. I said I had not thought of communicating anything to the House about this matter. The Department takes these matters very seriously and investigates them on the spot, where some good might be done.

FINANCE

EXEMPTION OF IRRIGATION DISTRICTS FROM SALES TAX ON MATERIALS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. V. Pugh (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Would the Minister consider exempting irrigation districts from the 11 per cent sales tax on materials used in the construction or refurbishing of such irrigation districts, based on the fact that these districts are to all intents and purposes co-operatives formed by farmers for the production of agricultural produce?