

*Inquiries of the Ministry***UNITED NATIONS****RE-ELECTION OF CANADA TO
CERTAIN BODIES**

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs. Perhaps the minister would like to take it as notice. Is it the policy of the government not to seek re-election to the Industrial Development Board of the United Nations and the Committee on Program Co-ordination for Economic and Social Development because of a reassessment of priorities due to the staff freeze resulting from the current austerity program? Further, if the minister is to take this question as notice, I have a supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Fairweather: What is the rationalization—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Before the hon. member proceeds with the supplementary, perhaps I might be of assistance to him by suggesting to him that both the question and the supplementary be put on the Order Paper.

THE MINISTRY**ACTIVITIES OF PRIME MINISTER'S
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY**

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the recently disclosed information that the principal secretary to the Prime Minister is acting as secretary of an organization of 50,000 Liberals, a new and potent political arm, is the Prime Minister satisfied that this secretary, as capable as he may be, is able to carry on his public service duties which are about the most highly priced in Canada?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Waterloo.

Mr. Bell: No, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will have to assume that I do not accept the question as being one that can be asked at this time. If the hon. member thinks there is urgency to the question it could be debated at the time of adjournment.

Mr. Bell: May I rephrase my question, Sir, if it is not in order. With your indulgence, sir, [Mr. Drury.]

may I ask the Prime Minister if this principal secretary is engaging in these political duties and, if so, is he still carrying on his duties as one of the highest priced public servants in Canada?

Mr. Speaker: The question should be placed on the Order Paper.

STUDENT LOANS**ALLEGED REFUSAL BY BANKS TO LEND
TO CHILDREN OF WELFARE FAMILIES**

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Has his attention been drawn to a statement by a Liberal member of the Quebec National Assembly who charged that banks are refusing student loans to children of welfare families and, if so, does he intend to make representations to the banks?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly look into the matter. It had not been drawn to my attention. I would hope such is not the case. I think the student loans program instituted by this government has worked very well, even though it is administered by the provinces—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Benson:—and we would hope it would continue to work that way.

FINANCE**DISCUSSIONS RESPECTING SELECTIVE
BANK LOAN POLICIES**

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary but perhaps broader question to the Minister of Finance. Is he holding discussions with his friend, the Governor of the Bank of Canada, in order to have the banks institute selective lending policies so as to ease the effects of monetary stringencies in slow growth areas?

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is not a supplementary question, but as the question has been asked perhaps the minister might be allowed to answer it.

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the banks have been urged to do this both by the Governor of the Bank of Canada and by myself publicly. May I say that I would like to get away from the idea that the Minister of Finance runs the banks in Canada. The banks are run by their share-