

Inquiries of the Ministry

for York Centre in his capacity as chief government whip. Since the standing committees have been constituted as to membership, would the hon. gentleman move with some speed to have these committees meet for organization purposes in order that some of the pressing matters referred to them and uncompleted at the end of last session may be referred to them and dealt with?

Mr. J. E. Walker (York Centre): Two of them are being called for Tuesday and five for Thursday. The others will follow very shortly. Notices are going out today.

FINANCEREPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING SALES TAX
ON DRUGS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): This question is addressed to the Minister of Finance. Yesterday I asked the hon. gentleman whether he had received any representations with reference to the sales tax on drugs and medical supplies, and he said he had not. I wonder if he would mind checking his files to see whether there are letters written to a druggist by the name of Irwin and to other druggists by the Prime Minister, the Minister of Agriculture and the former minister of national revenue in reference to this matter. Perhaps the hon. gentleman would let us have a reply at a later date.

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance): My recollection is that the hon. member for Bow River prefaced his question by asking whether I had received extensive or voluminous correspondence on the subject, or something of that kind. The adjective was part of his question and I replied to it perfectly accurately. No doubt I have received one or two representations on this matter. I will be glad to look into it.

Mr. Woolliams: Perhaps I could put a supplementary question. Did the hon. gentleman receive representations from three of his colleagues in reference to this matter?

Mr. Gordon: That I would have to look into also.

REFUND OF SALES TAX TO CHURCHES,
SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. R. Southam (Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I understand that the acting minister of national revenue is prepared to an-
[Mr. Howard.]

swer the question I posed yesterday with relation to the formula for the refund of sales tax as it affects schools, churches and institutions in that category.

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, work is being done now to change the method of calculating this tax. While I cannot give the precise time when the new regulations will be ready, I would expect it to be in the very near future.

LEGISLATION RESPECTING CANADIAN CONTROL
OF NEWSPAPERS AND BANKS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George C. Nowlan (Digby-Annapolis-Kings): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance a question based on an interview he gave last night which is reported in the press today. Is it the minister's intention to recommend to the government that legislation be introduced at this session to deal with Canadian control of newspapers and also of banks or will the minister wait until the report of the banking commission is received?

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I do not quite know how that question could arise from the interview to which my hon. friend has referred. If there is any announcement to be made I can assure him it will be made in the normal way.

HARBOURSINQUIRY AS TO IMPROVEMENTS
UNDER CONSIDERATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Ron Basford (Vancouver-Burrard): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the wide interest in shipping facilities in Vancouver and the hope of some of us for the eventual establishment of a terminal railroad, will the minister table copies of a report on freight movement through greater Vancouver prepared by the British Columbia research council and tell us what is now being done following this report?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): I will be glad to table the report, but I am sure if I attempted to tell this house all the things that are being done to improve the port of Vancouver I should be at it all day. But my hon. friend does know, I believe, as do the other hon. members from that area, that there have been discussions recently between the harbours board and all the