

*Inquiries of the Ministry*INFLATION—SUGGESTED LIMITATION OF BANK  
PROFIT INCREASES TO SIX PER CENT

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary to the Minister of Finance. Inasmuch as five chartered banks have now reported profit increases averaging some 22 per cent, can the minister indicate to the House whether the government is considering imposing a 6 per cent limit on the profit increases of the chartered banks, such as is proposed for workers?

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** Of course not.

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, at the meeting earlier this year of the Prices and Incomes Commission, the banks made an agreement with regard to restricting their profits. I trust that the Prices and Incomes Commission will make sure they are adhering to this and, if they are not, I trust that the commission will bring it to the public's attention.

INFLATION—PROPOSED SIX PER CENT WAGE  
INCREASE LIMITATION—APPLICATION TO  
POSTAL UNION DISPUTE

**Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the support given by the government to the Chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission with respect to the recommendation for compulsory wage and salary guidelines, would the minister say if the exact timing of this announcement has anything to do with the current issue before Treasury Board involving the postal unions?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Not at all, Mr. Speaker.

*[Translation]*INFLATION—ADOPTION BY PROVINCES OF  
SIX PER CENT LIMIT ON WAGE INCREASES

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance a question. As the provinces seem to have accepted at the Winnipeg meeting the request of the government for a 6 per cent wage increase ceiling, would the minister be prepared to tell the House whether the provincial governments have committed themselves to pass legislative measures to implement a 6 per cent wage increase ceiling?

*[English]*

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, at Winnipeg the Ministers of

Finance indicated that they sympathized with the proposition, that they would take it back to their governments and report to the Chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission.

INFLATION—PROPOSED SIX PER CENT WAGE  
INCREASE LIMITATION—NOTIFICATION OF  
MINISTER BY DR. YOUNG

**Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister of Finance inform the House on what date the Chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission first informed him of his intention to present the proposal he presented to the Federal-Provincial Conference of Finance Ministers at Winnipeg?

**Mr. Baldwin:** Who spoke to whom?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, it was last week some time. I shall have to check and make sure of the exact time. The chairman of the commission approached our government at the same time as he approached other governments in this country.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Nuts!

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. How is the minister able to reconcile his answer with that of the Prime Minister, that the Chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission of course consults closely with government ministers? The proposal as put forward certainly would have been in that general area.

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission came to the government and put forward his proposal just before the conference. I am not sure of the exact date, but I will check it. He informed us that he was approaching other governments at the same time.

**Mr. Baldwin:** How naïve do you think we are?

**Mr. Hees:** Mr. Speaker, would the minister advise the House when the government told the Chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission to bring forward this suggestion?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Benson:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The minister seeks the floor on a point of order. He shall have the floor in a moment. Obviously, we