

Inquiries of the Ministry

to protect the farmers from this unjustified increase in the price of farm machinery?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will discuss this matter with the Minister of Agriculture as soon as he returns late tonight or tomorrow morning.

With reference to the unexplained absence of another minister, may I say that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp) is now in Washington discussing financial matters with the United States Secretary of the Treasury.

FINANCE**DECISION RESPECTING 3 PER CENT PERPETUAL BONDS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. E. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister further to a question which I asked in this regard last week. Has he had an opportunity yet of reviewing with his colleagues the government's decision respecting 3 per cent perpetual bonds? I ask this question in view of the increasing distress and dismay of which members of parliament are made aware as a result of letters from people from all over Canada?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, I have not had the opportunity of discussing the matter again with the Minister of Finance. I will do so when he returns.

INCOME TAX**CONTRIBUTIONS TO POLITICAL PARTIES TREATED AS DEDUCTIBLE EXPENSES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Has the attention of the Prime Minister been called to a recent judgment of the tax appeal board to the effect that the expenses of \$300,000 of a single corporation incurred for solicited contributions made to both political parties to obtain contracts was a deductible expense for tax purposes, and does the Prime Minister consider that this rather remarkable judgment underlines the urgency of early action on the recommendations of the committee on election expenditures?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my attention has not been called to that particular judgment; but it is now, by my hon. friend's question,

[Mr. Smallwood.]

FINANCE**EQUALIZATION OF GRANTS IN LIEU OF TAXES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. M. Forrestal (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Could he give the house and the people of Halifax some assurances that the announced intention to equalize grants in lieu of taxes with our tax structure in the city will in no way be impaired by the passage or the failure of the immediate passage of the new transport legislation?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, this question seems to me rather argumentative and perhaps not very urgent, but I can assure the hon. gentleman that if the legislation is passed by December 31 the government will take the action which I indicated would be taken at the time when the railways were given the opportunity to earn the money to pay the tax.

Mr. Forrestal: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Is the Minister of Transport suggesting that in order to legalize the decision of the government this legislation has to be passed?

Mr. Speaker: Order please. If the first question was in order, I have serious doubts about the second one.

AIRPORTS**VANCOUVER, B.C.—REQUEST FOR ACTION ON TUNNEL OR BRIDGE APPROACH**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. W. Prittie (Burnaby-Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. On his trip to Vancouver for the air transport convention did he discuss with the B.C. government facilities leading out of or to gain access to Vancouver international airport, either by means of a tunnel or a bridge, which had been talked about in the past?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I wonder whether the question asked by the hon. member should not be placed on the order paper.

Mr. Prittie: With respect, I suggest that this question has been asked many times previously and is not as frivolous as many questions which have been asked here today.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): The answer is yes.