

*Taxation—Agreements With Provinces*

1941, declaring that a state of war with Roumania, Hungary and Finland exists and has existed in Canada as from December 7, 1941.

Also copies in English and French of a proclamation issued on Monday, December 8, 1941, declaring that a state of war with Japan exists and has existed in Canada as and from December 7, 1941.

## TAXATION

AGREEMENTS WITH PROVINCES RESPECTING  
INCOME AND CORPORATION TAXES

On the order for motions:

Hon. R. B. HANSON (Leader of the Opposition): Before we leave this order of business may I ask the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilesley) if he will be good enough to lay upon the table of the house copies of the proposed agreements with the various provinces respecting their vacation of the fields of income tax and corporation tax. I understand that these have not been settled finally in form but have been transmitted to the various provinces for ratification by way of legislation. It seems to me desirable, however, that we should have these, if not now, in the immediate future. I assume they will become public through the press as soon as they have been transmitted to the provinces, which will in turn transmit them to the legislatures. If the minister can give these to the house now, I shall appreciate it.

Hon. J. L. ILSLEY (Minister of Finance): I should like to give a little consideration to that request.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That is fair.

Mr. ILSLEY: There may be alterations, I think minor only, in the agreements before they are signed. I am not just sure how far the government should go in submitting draft documents to the house before signature. However, they have been given to the press and I shall give consideration to—

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): If they have been given to the press, as a matter of right I claim that they should be laid on the table now. It is unheard of that they should be given to the press before being given to the House of Commons.

## PRIVILEGE—MR. COLDWELL

CENSORSHIP OF MAIL ADDRESSED TO MEMBERS  
OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. M. J. COLDWELL (Rosetown-Biggart): Mr. Speaker, I wish to raise a matter of privilege concerning the members of the House of Commons as members of the House of Commons. I have in my hand an envelope and a letter, the envelope having been posted within Canada and sent to a member of parliament as a member of parliament, addressed to the post office of the House of Commons. This letter has been opened and examined by the censor; C-451 is the number upon it. From time immemorial it has been the right of constituents of members of parliament to approach their members without obstruction or interference of any kind.

I draw this to the attention of you, Mr. Speaker, as the guardian of the rights and privileges of this house, in order that this matter may be investigated and this interference with the right of a constituent to approach his member stopped. I may say that during my recent visit to Britain I had letters from persons who were relatives of mine living in the prohibited defence areas in Britain, and none of those letters was censored although they had all been posted to me as a private citizen. I cannot for the life of me see why a letter of any description mailed in the Dominion of Canada to another point within Canada should be subjected to censorship. But I do say that it is an interference with the privileges and rights of members of this parliament to have mail opened addressed to members of parliament as members of parliament on what may be matters pertaining to their activities as members of this house, and so Mr. Speaker, I draw this matter to your attention.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): May I ask the hon. gentleman a question? Does this letter purport to have been mailed from a defence area in Canada, if that is the proper technical term? I think we ought to know the exact facts before the house is asked to pass judgment.

Mr. COLDWELL: I have not asked the house to pass judgment, or I would have moved a motion. This letter was mailed from Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, on January 19 of this year.