

*Inquiries of the Ministry***FINANCE**POSSIBILITY OF REDUCING INTEREST  
RATES TO FARMERS

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Minister of Finance. Since it has been government policy to fight inflation by increasing interest rates, which has resulted in a record profit of \$157 million for the banks, would the minister consider discussing with the banks the possibility of reducing interest rates to farmers? If this is not acceptable, would the minister consider deferring some of the interest payments that are now due?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to consider the proposition put forward by my hon. friend but I should point out to him, since this question was raised the other day, that after deducting the provision for income taxes—we increased the taxes on banks this year by changing the reserves—the after-tax income of the banks will aggregate \$244 million in 1969 compared with \$252 million in 1968. Expressed as a percentage of total assets—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Benson:**—after-tax income in 1969 was 0.63 per cent, of assets compared with 0.77 per cent in 1968.

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

[*Later:*]

**Mr. Korchinski:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to rise on a point of order. On many occasions I have perhaps been guilty of adding too many words to my questions, but on this occasion the minister skirted around the answer to my question. I believe he had an answer, so perhaps he could be allowed to finish it.

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, if my hon. friend would look at the first part of my answer he would find that I did answer the question.

[*Translation*]

**FAMILY ALLOWANCES**

## TRANSFER OF FEDERAL PLAN TO QUEBEC

**Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

In view of the fact that at the constitutional conference the province of Quebec and the

[*Mr. Speaker.*]

federal government failed to agree on the transfer to Quebec of the administration of family allowances and that this matter has been referred to a committee of officials, could the minister tell us whether or not it is his intention to pass off that responsibility to the province of Quebec, until such time as the committee of officials has ruled on the matter?

[*English*]

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, the government's intention in this regard has been expressed by the Prime Minister. The federal government has no intention of turning over jurisdiction for family allowances to any province.

**BROADCASTING**EFFECT OF CRTC DECISION RESPECTING  
CABLEVISION

**Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre):** Mr. Speaker, with your indulgence may I rephrase a question I asked yesterday? I see the Secretary of State in the House so I will direct my question to him. In view of the many protests being made to the Secretary of State concerning the recent decision of the Canadian Radio-Television Commission on microwave broadcasting, will the minister consider making a statement on motions as early as possible?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, we have indeed received representations to this effect and it might be possible to make a statement in this regard.

I, however, wish to point out that while under section 23 of the Broadcasting Act the governor in council has authority to request the CRTC to review the issue, amendment or renewal of broadcasting licences, neither that section nor any other section of the act authorizes the governor in council to request that the CRTC review the rejection of an application for a licence.

[*English*]

**Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley):** Mr. Speaker, could the minister tell us whether the cabinet is in fact reviewing sections of the CRTC decision in order that recommendations can be made to that body in the areas mentioned by the minister, and could that be included in his statement?