

Oral Questions

that we have stopped all foreclosures on any farm credit loans in that area that are behind in payment.

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INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Prime Minister. I wish to ask him whether he is now prepared—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: Quiet, please.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: Is he now prepared to give a rendition of the theme song of this new parliament entitled "Those nobodies are somebodies now"?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: Sing it.

Mr. Hees: I will sing it with him.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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SPORTS**MONTREAL OLYMPIC GAMES, 1976—CIRCUMSTANCE OF SALE OF TELEVISION RIGHTS TO AMERICAN BROADCASTING COMPANY**

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I do not want to destroy the harmony, but I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare whose transition from the black to the green chamber I congratulate and welcome. Has the minister investigated the reasons for and the circumstances of the sale of United States television rights for the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games to the American Broadcasting Company whereas a seemingly better proposal from Bobby Orr Enterprises was not even considered?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): The answer is no, Mr. Speaker, as this is not a matter under my administrative responsibilities.

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TRANSPORT**SUGGESTED FREEZE ON RAILWAY FREIGHT RATES PENDING REGIONAL CONFERENCES**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Is it the intention of the minister to place an immediate freeze on freight rates until such time as the regional conferences on freight rates, proposed in the Speech from the Throne, can take place?

[Mr. Whelan.]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member will have to tell me under what authority or law I can do that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister and the member know that that question cannot be asked. Perhaps the hon. member has a supplementary.

Mr. McGrath: Can the minister give an undertaking to the House that he will take this up with his colleagues in cabinet in order to have an order in council placing an immediate freeze on freight rates because of the devastating effect that freight rates are having on the cost of living in Canada?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I think this is a very important problem.

Mr. McGrath: Then why don't you do something about it?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): We are following very closely what is being done. We hope the railways will understand—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): They have the authority to increase their freight rates. I hope they will not.

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INCOME TAX**TIME OF CONSIDERATION OF BILLS NOT DISPOSED OF AND TO BE REINTRODUCED**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In view of the indication that the bills left over from his old budget relating to income tax, corporation income tax and so on will be reintroduced, is it the intention of the minister that the House consider these bills immediately or that they should be considered at the time he presents his new budget in 1973?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have every intention of bringing in an early budget, subject to looking for House time in consultation with the Prime Minister and the House leader and after obtaining the views of the provinces at the meeting with the provincial Ministers of Finance on January 18 and 19. Subject to those qualifications, I hope to have an opportunity to bring in an early budget for the consideration of the House. At that time we are committed to reintroducing the substance of the budget bills that followed my budget of May 8. The form and timing of the reintroduction of the substance of those bills will be discussed by me with the House leader. In view of the fact that I anticipate an early budget, I think it may make sense to combine all the bills after consultation with the House leader.