

*Inquiries of the Ministry**(Translation):*

Mr. Gregoire: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the Prime Minister aware that an ultimatum has been presented by the province of Quebec in order to secure a larger share of those taxes within a year?

[Later:]

Mr. Pearson: No, Mr. Speaker, I am aware of no ultimatum from the province of Quebec on any subject.

(Translation):

[Later:]

Mr. Gregoire: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Justice the question I put earlier to the Prime Minister. Is the Minister of Justice aware that the prime minister of the province of Quebec has given an ultimatum to the federal government concerning the distribution of the various sources of revenue and taxation?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the answer is no.

Mr. Gregoire: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the Minister of Justice mean that he did not read about the matter in the papers when it was discussed in the Quebec legislature?

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, I have no explanation to give the hon. member with regard to the answer I have just given. I have replied as the Prime Minister did, and I think that is a formal answer.

On the other hand, if the hon. member is trying to find some matter for discussion, he might perhaps do so in another place and at another time, but certainly not during the question period.

[Later:]

Mr. Gregoire: Mr. Speaker, I have another supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Does that mean that the government feels no obligation to do anything in that respect until a letter or an official request is received?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

[Later:]

Mr. Gerard Chapdelaine (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Finance. Has he been reading the newspapers of the province of Quebec since April 8?

[Mr. Pearson.]

INQUIRY AS TO DEBT FREE MONEY POLICY

Mr. Guy Marcoux (Quebec-Montmorency): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Does the Liberal party always favour the debt free money policy, as he intimated last session?

(Text):

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in reply to my hon. friend the Liberal party, as always, is in favour of progressive and sound financial and currency policies.

CLAIMS FOR REFUND OF IMPORT SURCHARGES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. In view of the stand taken a few months ago by a number of ministers of the present government with respect to the validity of the import surcharge order in council, what position does the government now propose to take in connection with the claims for refund being made before the Exchequer Court of Canada?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows there is one case, if not several cases, concerning these import orders now before the court. I am sure the hon. member will agree with me that it would be most improper under the circumstances for me to make any comment thereon.

Mr. Knowles: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister of Justice now table the opinion on this order in council which he, his colleagues and others of us sought to obtain a few months ago?

Mr. Chevrier: From the information which I have in my possession there is no doubt that there is no such written opinion prevalent in the Department of Justice, as we, when on the other side of the house, suspected at the time.

INQUIRY AS TO UNPEGGING OF CANADIAN DOLLAR

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the innumerable erroneous statements which have been made by many of the men now occupying the treasury benches—

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Simpson: —to the effect that a devaluated Canadian dollar would cause uncontrollable inflation, I should like to ask