

Inquiries of the Ministry

Some hon. Members: Order paper.

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Speaker—

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: Order. That question is not urgent in itself although I realize its great importance.

[Translation]

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I asked this question because it is very urgent, since the Canadian economy is unsteady at present. In addition, taxpayers, home builders, municipal authorities and school boards are complaining against this discriminatory tax which is crippling the Canadian economy—

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have already told the hon. member that the question is very important; but I believe the question was asked yesterday or the day before, and it seems to me the order paper is the proper place for this type of question.

HOUSING

REPORTED HALTING OF LOANS BY APPROVED LENDERS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the question I asked him the other day regarding the drying up of mortgage loans from approved lenders, and his reply that this matter was being given immediate and urgent consideration at the present time, I wonder whether he can report any progress on this question.

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the government is considering urgently and almost daily certain proposed amendments to be presented in connection with the National Housing Act. I would not want my hon. friend to think that my answer of the other day encompassed any immediate change or any prospective change in the rate of interest on National Housing Act loans. This is a matter, however, that the government has under consideration all the time.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

POLICY RESPECTING CONSTRUCTION OF SMALL POST OFFICES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Are the small post offices formerly built under the winter works program in all areas of Canada now being

constructed only in so-called designated areas? If so, when and in what way was government policy changed in this regard?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, last summer a special vote was provided in the estimates of the Department of Finance to provide for accelerated winter projects not otherwise provided for in the main estimates. These accelerated projects had application to areas designated by the Department of Industry and the Department of Labour as areas of high winter unemployment. I would have to make further inquiries with respect to the post office aspect of that general program.

REQUEST FOR ANNUAL REPORT OF DEPARTMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. A. McBain (Elgin): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Postmaster General. In view of the fact that later this week we may be discussing the resolution in his name on the order paper, I wonder whether the Postmaster General could indicate when the report of his department for 1963 will be tabled in the house?

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, it was to have been filed some time this week, and I am surprised if it has not been.

Mr. McBain: I did not hear the answer.

Mr. Nicholson: As far as I know it has been filed. If not, it certainly will be within the next day or so.

NATIONAL PARKS

WOOD BUFFALO—REPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING TRANSFER TO PROVINCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. I should like to ask him whether representations have been received from the government of the province of Alberta suggesting or requesting the transfer of Wood Buffalo national park to provincial jurisdiction.

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): No representations have been made to me, Mr. Speaker.

INQUIRY AS TO DEVELOPMENT POLICY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, a few days ago the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources said that he would be presenting a new statement