

is part of the difficulty in dealing with matters such as housing and pollution. To this extent I agree completely with the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

In answer to the question as to whether this is a matter of national interest my answer is, of course it is. And we believe that, but we must then ask ourselves how all matters of national interest must be dealt with under the constitution. That is exactly the policy of this government.

#### AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS TO MUNICIPALITIES

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the government has rejected the proposal that the federal government make funds available to the municipalities for housing purposes?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have just said that the government would be introducing new legislation in the house very shortly. It is now at the drafting stage. The policy matters have been decided by the government, and the hon. member will have to wait a few more days or, at the most, a couple of weeks before seeing what is in the legislation.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact the former Minister of Transport, who was responsible for housing, is alleged to have made the statement at his press conference this morning that one of his disagreements with the Prime Minister was that the government refused his proposal to make housing funds available for municipalities, I wonder whether the Prime Minister might clear up that point for members of the house?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am wondering whether the hon. member is not now actually entering into a discussion of the very subject which in my view is the subject matter to be debated tomorrow afternoon. I doubt very much whether that type of question should be asked at this time, or whether in fact it should not rather be asked tomorrow afternoon, when we are debating this matter in an attempt to elucidate such points.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. With great deference to Your Honour I should like to point out that if we are to have any type of worth-while discussion tomorrow, surely the house is entitled to

#### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

some statement as to whether or not the allegations made by the minister who has resigned were valid, and surely we are entitled to a statement from the Prime Minister.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I doubt very much whether the point raised by the hon. member is valid. He realizes that in ordinary circumstances such debates are allowed the same day, and there is no opportunity for members of the opposition or any member of the house to ask questions because the debate is brought on immediately. Therefore, I cannot think that the standing order makes provision for, first, a question period allowing hon. members to obtain information, and then to have an adjournment debate for the purpose of discussing the information obtained during the question period. This would be my interpretation of the rule.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I just submit this point for Your Honour's consideration. Tomorrow we will have the debate, with no opportunity for asking questions, and there is information which members are entitled to have before that debate begins.

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not want to enter into a discussion with the hon. member, but I must point out that there is a procedural difficulty here, because normally such debates are held on the same day. If the debate were held today, I doubt that there would be an opportunity for hon. members to ask questions on the matter, although it might be very useful for them to do so. This is not really provided for by the rules.

#### INQUIRY AS TO REPLACEMENT OF MINISTER FOLLOWING RESIGNATION

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Has-tings):** Mr. Speaker, could the Prime Minister advise the house when he expects to make an announcement of the appointment of a new minister of transport to handle the rather sorry state of affairs described by the minister who resigned this morning?

**An hon. Member:** Let George do it.

**Another hon. Member:** Good idea.

**Mr. Hees:** Just hand it over.