

Inquiries of the Ministry

the business which they feel should be considered and debated by the house. As I have said, in my humble opinion there would be a great deal of disorder and disorganization if all the motions for adjournment that are made every week were granted.

The hon. member for Prince Albert said that there will be serious results from the minister's announcement on motions. On the other hand some hon. members, particularly the hon. member for Bow River, indicated that the subject matter of the minister's announcement has been discussed before. To my mind this throws some doubt on the question of urgency of debate today.

In looking over the specific motion submitted to the Chair by the Leader of the Opposition, it seems to me that there is one real point in it which has to be considered by the Chair, namely, whether the house should be adjourned for the purpose of discussing the propriety of the minister making his statement on motions at this time. I think this is a very relevant point and of course it becomes a matter of opinion. Essentially it is a motion of censure against the minister. As hon. members know, according to the rules this type of motion can only be proposed by way of a substantive motion.

• (12:10 p.m.)

My original statement that there will be an early opportunity to discuss this subject matter did not appear to be received with great enthusiasm by some hon. members. However, I am afraid I have to repeat it and go to citation No. 100, paragraph 3 of Beauchesne, fourth edition, which states that this kind of motion should be granted only when there will not be an early opportunity for debate. It is extremely difficult for me to know when this will be—Monday, perhaps Tuesday or later on. I find it difficult to judge. On the other hand, I have to interpret the statement as indicating that there will be an early opportunity to decide the matter raised in the motion of the Leader of the Opposition. As to the second part which deals with the propriety of the minister making a statement on motions at this time I have to rule that this is essentially a censure motion which can only be made in the usual way by substantive motion.

FINANCE**REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF PROPOSED FISCAL MEASURES**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Finance a [Mr. Speaker.]

question in the light of reports which have already come in as to the serious consequences, in the financial markets of Canada, of the statement just made by the minister in the manner he did. Will the minister, to minimize these consequences, take the house and therefore the country into his confidence by letting us know the details of the tax measures proposed and the timing of them and also the details of the reduction in the government's spending program to which he referred?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I shall be discussing that with my colleagues and I hope there will also be an opportunity of discussing with the leaders of the other parties in the house both the time and the manner in which I shall make my statement about tax changes. Perhaps it will be in the form of another budgetary message; perhaps it could be in another form in view of the fact that we are now in committee of ways and means. That is the only point I had in mind in saying I thought this would be the subject of consultation.

We shall be bringing forward our proposals as we would if we were bringing down another budget in the sense that we shall make both the nature of the changes and the general financial position of the government known at that time. I did feel it would be very desirable in view of the questions which had been raised both here in the house and elsewhere that I should make it known now that we are bringing down supplementary tax measures, which I did, and second, that we should declare very clearly, so that financial markets and the country at large would understand, what our general objectives are, namely, a limitation upon our expenditure and a limitation upon our borrowing. It is very desirable that this should be known to the house before I have discussions with the provinces. It is absolutely essential in these circumstances that the government should give strong leadership.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Sharp: It has been urged upon the government by members opposite that we should give leadership. When we do we are accused—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Hon. members will agree that some leniency should be shown both to the hon. member who asked the