

Mr. Speaker: The Prime Minister rises on a question of privilege.

Mr. Trudeau: It is not personal privilege, Mr. Speaker, but I think the House is entitled to know the facts when I am accused of having done something which I had no right to do. I assure the House that we did not leak any letter. It was not leaked in Ottawa, and the right hon. member should not make an accusation of that kind without being able to substantiate it.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: May I remind the Prime Minister that this is not the first time he has forgotten something—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize a further supplementary by the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, but I must bring to the attention of hon. members that time is going by quickly.

Mr. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): The Prime Minister stated he would go to the Commonwealth conference with a flexible position and listen to the arguments of Britain. Suppose countries such as Zambia, Tanzania and other Commonwealth nations put forward very strong arguments for taking an even tougher position against Britain; will Canada's position be flexible enough to tend to their side?

An hon. Member: Make him a Parliamentary Secretary.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Both suggestions I have just heard are hypothetical, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I am counting the large number of members who are rising now, and I must warn many of them that they will not be called during this question period.

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NATIONAL REVENUE

REASSESSMENT OF FARMERS DOING OFF-FARM WORK

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. I have given him notice. Can the minister tell us the results of his meeting with the Minister of National Revenue on behalf of farmers who are being reassessed for tax purposes after engaging in off-farm labour to augment their incomes?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have had a discussion about this matter with the Minister of National Revenue, although these farmers have the right to communicate directly with the Minister of National Revenue if they wish. I am advised that the minister is looking further into this matter. We would like to be given names so that we can identify the files concerned, but I can also assure the hon. member that

Inquiries of the Ministry

bona fide farmers are not being treated any differently now than they were in the past.

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FINANCE

DISCUSSION OF LEVEL OF TAXATION WITH PROVINCIAL TREASURERS

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): I have a question for the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker. During the recent conference between himself and the provincial treasurers did any discussion take place concerning whether or not the increases in the combined rates of taxation, provincially and federally, have jointly passed the point of diminishing returns?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. MacLean: Is it the intention of the Minister of Finance to suggest that discussion of this point should be on the agenda at the next such conference?

Mr. Benson: No, Mr. Speaker, because I do not believe it to be the case.

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POLLUTION

CONTAMINATION OF MANITOBA WATERS BY DRYDEN CHEMICALS AND INTERPROVINCIAL CO-OPERATIVES

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. In view of the fact that the government of Manitoba has filed a statement of claim against two companies alleged to have contaminated waterways in Manitoba, can the minister assure us, in so far as the matter comes within his jurisdiction, that Dryden Chemicals Limited and Interprovincial Co-operatives have ceased to discharge wastes?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): They have ceased to discharge wastes to the extent of 95 per cent or better; I expect them both to be down in the order of 99 per cent in the next few weeks.

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IMMIGRATION

REASONS FOR DECREASE IN NUMBER OF CHINESE ADMITTED TO CANADA

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): My question is addressed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Would the minister explain to the House the drastic decrease in Chinese immigration from 6,655 in the first nine months of 1969 to 4,232 in the first nine months of 1970?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is the kind of information which should be given to the House by way of a statement on motions.