

Inquiries of the Ministry

ered by way of a question of privilege. This is the only way such a matter can be referred to a committee. I am not sure whether the terms of the motion would be appropriate. In any event, the Chair will give the matter some thought. If the hon. member wishes to submit advice to the Chair as to whether there is a question of privilege, this might be done in due course. I should think that would be the time the motion might be moved. In other words, the hon. member is indicating indirectly to the Chair and to the House that he will in due course seek to have the matter referred to a committee by way of a question of privilege. The Chair will consider the matter in this light.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I should like to say, by way of a point of order, that Your Honour has custody of the rights and prerogatives of the members of this House. I suggest to you that this is so serious a matter you ought to look into it personally in the next couple of days with a view to ascertaining the facts. You need not reveal them to the House at the moment, but this is something which contravenes every basic principle of Parliament. Your Honour is the protector of the rights—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Not for those people over there who say "oh, oh". Those prospective heirs-apparent as parliamentary secretaries who interrupt continuously in this way do not understand Parliament. I suggest to you that this is something deserving of the fullest investigation, which should start with Your Honour, to assure that the kind of uncertain and evasive answers we have had today shall be cleared up by a proper conclusion as to whether or not Members of Parliament are subject to Mounted Police dossiers.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Murphy: On a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to remind the right hon. gentleman on the other side as to who raised this very important point.

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FINANCE**DATE OF PRESENTATION OF BUDGET—METHOD OF MAKING INCOME TAX CHANGES**

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance regarding an entirely different matter. Is he able to tell us when he is going to make his budget presentation? Does he intend to include in that presentation changes to the Income Tax Act, or is he going to take alternative steps to introduce those changes and, if so, when?

[Mr. Speaker.]

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry I cannot indicate that date at the present time, but I shall do so at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, because of the importance of the situation and the anticipation in the country, can the minister tell us whether before the end of this month he will be in a position to disclose the date of his budget presentation and when he will introduce his tax changes?

Mr. Benson: I shall try very hard, Mr. Speaker. I can assure my hon. friend that it will not be before the end of this month that the introduction will take place, but I will try at the earliest possible date to indicate the procedures involved. As I indicated previously, the problem in this matter of tax legislation is one of drafting. I cannot give a precise date as yet, although I hope to be able to do so in the very near future.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS**INQUIRY AS TO BY-ELECTION IN RIDING OF ASSINIBOIA**

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the date of the by-elections to fill four vacancies in this chamber has been announced, and in view of the fact 35,000 people in the riding of Assiniboia are not represented, is it his intention to call for a by-election in that riding at an early date?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, at an early date.

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AGRICULTURE**FARM PRODUCTS MARKETING BILL—EXCLUSION OF CATTLE AND CALVES**

Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that over the Easter recess the minister went home and has had the benefit of the thinking of the various cattlemen's associations, can he now say if he is prepared either to move or accept an amendment which would exclude cattle and calves from the ambit of Bill C-176?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. During the question period an hon. member cannot raise matters which are being discussed by the House. The hon. member is anticipating an order of the House. In the terms his question has been asked, it is not in order. Perhaps the hon. member might find some way to rephrase the question, but I doubt that he can find a way to make it acceptable from a procedural standpoint.