

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): With great respect, sir, is it not a question of privilege if a minister inadvertently misinforms the house about a bill upon which a vote is to be taken, and in that way influences the vote on that bill?

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): Perhaps I can clear this up. Yesterday when I spoke in this house what I said was based entirely on information given to me by the board of transport commissioners as to what their powers and responsibilities are in this matter. What I said still stands. The privileges of municipalities, according to the information given to me by the board, are as I said in this house yesterday. There is not one word of what I said yesterday which I would feel requires to be changed in any way, shape or form.

RIGHT HON. HAROLD MACMILLAN

INCLUSION OF ADDRESS TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT IN PROCEEDINGS OF TODAY

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): May I ask the leave of the house to revert to motions?

Mr. Speaker: Has the Prime Minister leave to revert to motions?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Then I would move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson):

That the address of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the Right Hon. Harold Macmillan, before members of the Senate and of the House of Commons in the chamber of the House of Commons this day, together with the introductory and related speeches, be included in the *House of Commons Debates* and form part of the permanent records of this parliament.

Motion agreed to.

[For text of address above referred to, see appendix, pages 1149-54.]

HOUSING

CENTRAL MORTGAGE AND HOUSING—ALLEGED ARREARS ON MORTGAGE LOANS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. In view of the statement of the head of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation concerning the number of people who are falling into arrears in their monthly payments on mortgage loans, would the minister consider making a public statement on this matter setting out the government's position on a moratorium on foreclosures in cases where illness or unemployment is a factor?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, this is a report, I understand, of a meeting held by a committee of the other house. I rather think the report is a bit sensational. Certainly I know of no such situation as serious as this report would indicate. As for a moratorium, that would come under the jurisdiction of the respective provincial governments.

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Public Works arising out of the answer he gave to the member for Port Arthur.

Will the Minister of Public Works not reconsider what he said with regard to the jurisdiction of this parliament in the matter of obligations owing by individuals to the crown in the right of Canada? What my hon. friend said with regard to moratoria generally I am sure is correct. General moratoria obviously arise out of the jurisdiction of the provinces. But will he not give consideration to his answer and perhaps on Monday or at some other time give a correct interpretation which clearly is that relief from obligations or debts owing by individuals to Canada come within the jurisdiction of the government of Canada?

Mr. Green: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Essex East is always very plausible, especially when he thinks he can make a little trouble for the government. As a distinguished lawyer he knows just as well as I do that the question of imposing a moratorium rests with the provincial governments.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Then, Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Justice, who is a distinguished lawyer, if he will give consideration to this question?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the hon. member might consult the law books himself, and he will find that on this occasion he is wrong.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, in view of the attitude the Minister of Justice takes with regard to giving legal advice to the house—an attitude which I may say is in accordance with the traditions of his high office—would he consult the law officers of the crown?

SHIPPING

BRITISH COLUMBIA—STATEMENT ON TAXATION OF WHARVES AND BOAT HOUSES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for