

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think this kind of detailed discussion is the type which should take place when the bill is before the house and is not now in order.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, in view of the minister's answer, and I know he did not intend to mislead the house, is it basically correct that estates under \$50,000 will not be taxed and that the old rate which existed prior to October is being restored?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Let me suggest to hon. members that this is precisely the debate which I assume will take place when the bill is before the house. I do not see why exceptions should be made to the general rule in respect of something which has obviously been made an order of the house.

Mr. Woolliams: With the greatest respect to Your Honour, I think there may be a misunderstanding as a result of the minister's terminology in answering the question. He left a rather ambiguous impression in answer to the question, "would it not be correct...?" I think he appreciates that fact and I hope Your Honour will, with your great wisdom, give the minister an opportunity to make a correction.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It is difficult to resist such a plea.

Mr. Benson: If I may speak to the point of order, I believe my answer was quite correct. The exemptions have not been raised and estates under \$50,000 will not be reduced because of estate tax. This is similar to the situation which existed before. Under the new system the high exemptions have not been changed. If someone has four children, for example, there may be a \$100,000 exemption plus anything left to the wife, which is also exempt.

GRAIN**VANCOUVER, B.C.—EMPTY SHIPS LEAVING PORT**

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce whether he can indicate to the house that the reports of grain ships leaving Vancouver harbour empty are accurate?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I have already answered that question on an earlier day when I confirmed that indeed two ships had left or were about to leave. In one case arrangements were made for the ship to return later to pick up the grain.

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, does the minister expect that he will soon be in a position to announce a new sale of Canadian wheat to red China in proportion to the recent sale by Australia amounting to \$137,500,000 for 2,250,000 tons?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, the sale by Australia proves that there is a constant demand for wheat in China. The Wheat Board will be continuing its effort to get a fair share of that market. I should point out "en passant", as Sir John A. Macdonald used to say, that under the agreement with China I announced a few months ago, Canada is selling seven million bushels a month to China compared with 6,600,000 sold by Australia. This also demonstrates that China believes in a two-source system.

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, could the minister advise the house when his explanations and rosy promises will be replaced by new wheat contracts?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The supplementary question is argumentative.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS**VILLENEUVE, QUE.—SUBVENTIONS IN 1967**

Mr. Oza Tétrault (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Finance indicate what municipalities in the constituency of Villeneuve received subventions in 1967, and the amount of these subventions, in respect of buildings owned by the Crown, erected on lands covered by 99-year lease arrangements—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Tétrault:—accorded by private companies as well as for Crown-owned buildings—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Tétrault:—erected on lands belonging to the Crown?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's question should be placed on the order paper.