

Inquiries of the Ministry

officials have regular consultations with the provinces on the student loans program. We have all been very much aware of the more difficult employment situation for some students this summer. This was taken into account, for instance, when the house approved my recommendation that the basic provision for students loans this year be increased to \$100 million. The loans are available to students who need financial assistance, and I can assure the hon. member that the criteria applied for this purpose take into account the fact that a student has not been able to find summer employment.

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, parts of the white paper are now being written. I can assure the hon. member that as soon as some important decisions are taken by the cabinet I will present the white paper. I am as anxious as the Leader of the Opposition to have it completed.

Mr. Stanfield: Do I take it from that, Mr. Speaker, that the minister is either unable or unwilling to state a date now when the white paper will be available?

Mr. Benson: It is just impossible to do so, Mr. Speaker.

FISHERIES**F.A.O. CONFERENCE—REQUEST FOR PAPERS DELIVERED**

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries which relates to one asked earlier about the F.A.O. conference in Halifax. Is the minister proposing to make available, either through tabling or distribution, copies of the papers presented, in particular the basic position paper reportedly delivered by Dr. Needler on the effect of the use of d.d.t?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly look into this and make copies of the papers available to any interested members.

AIRPORTS**PELEE ISLAND—REQUEST FOR IMPROVEMENT**

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Has the minister had an opportunity yet to study the representations made by the citizens of Canada's most southerly territory, Pelee Island, with regard to the modest improvement of their airport, and to arrive at a decision?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think this question should be placed on the order paper.

TAXATION**WHITE PAPER ON REFORM—INQUIRY AS TO DATE OF PRESENTING**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Finance when we may expect the white paper on tax reform which we were led to expect in June, then in mid-summer or September, and which we now learn from the press may not be available until October?

[Mr. Benson.]

HOUSING**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON RISING INTEREST RATES**

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the minister in charge of housing. In view of the continuing rise in mortgage interest rates, what measures, if any, does the minister intend to take to stop this upward spiral?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is asking for a statement which would normally be made on motions. To that extent the question is not in order.

Mr. Gilbert: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member cannot ask a question supplementary to one that is not accepted. However, I invite the hon. member to ask another question while he has the floor.

Mr. Gilbert: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister make a statement on motions with regard to the continued upward rise of mortgage interest rates and tell us what steps, if any, the government will take to correct this situation?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I will examine this suggestion, but I do not think I can compete very adequately with the Governor of the Bank of Canada at this time.

PROCEDURE AND ORGANIZATION**THIRD REPORT OF COMMITTEE—REQUEST FOR PAIRING PROGRAM WHILE UNDER DEBATE**

Mr. Jerry Pringle (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the Official Opposition are obviously using the platoon system and taking their vacations during what was to be the summer recess,