

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

have to proceed to take further steps, then these will be announced in the House.

This was the answer that I was trying to give the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister or his staff read the white paper recently introduced in the United Kingdom parliament—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is asking the minister whether his staff has read a white paper. I am sure he would not suggest this is a proper question.

**Mr. Baldwin:** On the point that Your Honour has raised, may I say I simply want to ask whether a certain course is contemplated. The white paper suggests that the use of an early warning system with regard to prices and incomes, combined with definite guidelines, might be a reasonable way to counter inflation. Has the minister given some consideration to this suggestion?

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, we have given consideration to a great many suggestions, including suggestions from members on the opposite side of the House with respect, for example, to the creation of the Prices and Incomes Commission which is trying to establish voluntary guidelines, and this in spite of the derision which now comes from the opposite side of the House.

**Mr. Stanfield:** On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to ask a further supplementary—

**Mr. Stanfield:** No, Mr. Speaker, I wish to raise a matter of privilege.

**Mr. Speaker:** I apologize to the Leader of the Opposition. I did not realize he was rising on a question of privilege.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Finance has made a mistake which I should like to correct. The Prices and Incomes Commission was not recommended by the opposition.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Stanfield:** The Prices and Incomes Commission was not recommended by the Opposition but by a task force of some sort set up by the government. I do not think the

[Mr. Benson.]

Minister of Finance should be allowed to get away with that type of mistake in the House.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[Later:]

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege, I wish to apologize to the Leader of the Opposition. I had thought he had made a useful suggestion with regard to controlling inflation through the Prices and Incomes Commission. I am now informed he did not make that suggestion.

**An hon. Member:** We could have told you that.

**INDIAN AFFAIRS****REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON BORDER CROSSING PRIVILEGES**

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Will he make a statement of motions setting forth the official view of the government about the applicability of the Jay Treaty generally and in particular about the border crossing privileges of thousands of Indian people? Will he make this statement either this week or during the first week of sitting after the Christmas recess? I ask this question, Your Honour, in view of the fact that Thursday, the day after tomorrow, is the first anniversary of the blockade of the bridge at Cornwall Island, and also in view of the claim of the Indian people—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member has asked a question. I do not think it is regular to pursue the matter in order to explain to the House why he has asked the question. It is a valid question and perhaps the minister might reply.

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, the problem of crossing the Canada-U.S. border by any Canadian citizen is under the jurisdiction of my colleague the Minister of National Revenue and I would ask him to comment on this.

[English]

**Mr. Nesbitt:** Mr. Speaker, will the minister consult with his colleagues, the Minister of National Revenue and the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, in order that he may give a firm undertaking now that the government will immediately stop the harassment