

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Obviously this is argument. I do not see how the hon. member can suggest this is a question. Again, perhaps I could allow the minister to answer this question and then we could go on to another one.

Mr. Sharp: I think it is quite clear from the file and also from the text that this appointment had been made orally. This letter to the former minister of finance begins:

This will just reconfirm an appointment with you for twelve o'clock noon on Thursday, July 18, as arranged by Mr. Rasminsky.

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance and Receiver General if he would reply to the question I put to him yesterday as to whether he has received representations concerning the Mercantile Bank from the Chase Manhattan Bank which is also presided over by a member of the Rockefeller family?

[English]

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I am very anxious that I should answer these questions accurately, and the search of the file has not been completed.

[Later:]

Mr. Hamilton: May I ask one short question of the Minister of Finance. Now that he has read a part of that letter, would he table it?

Mr. Sharp: I will be happy to do so.

HOUSING

INQUIRY AS TO AMENDMENT OF LEGISLATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. I would like to ask the minister whether he has any announcement to make to the house in regard to amendments to the National Housing Act to alleviate the shortage that exists. Has he any new approach or announcement to make now, or will such an announcement be made before the conclusion of this session?

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): I think I stated the other day that this matter was being studied and that, if and when the government had any change of policy to announce, it would be announced.

Mr. Winkler: On a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell us whether the announcement will be made in the very

near future, before the conclusion of the current session?

Mr. Nicholson: I am hopeful that certain changes in the act will be introduced if not during the present session then early in the next session.

Mr. Heward Graffey (Brome Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question to the Minister of Labour. Yesterday in answer to a similar question he announced that symposiums and conferences were to be set up across the country. Have these symposiums and conferences been given a date before which they must report their findings to the minister and to the government.

Mr. Nicholson: Public conferences do not have to report to anyone. The provincial governments concerned and the federal government are inviting the mayors and Reeves of municipalities, the heads of housing authorities, representatives of investment firms and others interested to gather in provincial capitals—although in one or two cases the meetings will take place elsewhere than in the capital cities—to discuss problems related to housing. The provincial and federal governments wish to have their views. We hope that some constructive suggestions will emerge from the nine or ten conferences that have been planned. The dates have been fixed for all of them, although the date for the meeting that is to be held in Manitoba has not been confirmed as yet. The meetings are jointly sponsored by the federal and provincial governments concerned.

IMMIGRATION

ADOLF VON THADDEN—REPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING ENTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. R. Sherman (Winnipeg South): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the announcement made early this week that the University of British Columbia student association has invited Adolf von Thadden to speak in Vancouver later this month and in the light of the uproar which has arisen as a result of the purported invitation to von Thadden by the C.B.C., I should like to ask the minister whether he received any representations asking him to intercede in that matter and to prevent the appearance of von Thadden in this country.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I received representations at the time the C.B.C.