

Inquiries of the Ministry

hon. gentleman—and I use the word “allegations” because in the notice of his question he used the word “apparently”—have not yet come to my notice; but if they should prove to be correct I expect I will be receiving representations.

Mr. Simpson: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister be prepared to look into such representations immediately in order to rectify this situation?

Mr. Pickersgill: That is done almost automatically in these matters.

Mr. Diefenbaker: “Almost” automatically.

FINANCE

COLLECTION OF SALES TAX ON CENTENNIAL PROJECTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, in view of our approaching centennial, and to promote the spirit of unity in this house and in Canada, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Finance. Can the Minister of Finance explain why sales tax is charged on centennial projects which are entirely financed by grants from various levels of government?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would invite the hon. member to place that question on the order paper.

[*Later:*]

Mr. Herridge: I wish to rephrase my question to bring it in order. Has the Minister of Finance received any representations from persons or groups in Canada objecting to the payment of sales tax on centennial projects financed by grants from all levels of government?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Yes, Mr. Speaker; from many people.

[*Translation*]

[*Later:*]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance following his answer to the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge) concerning the numerous representations he received with regard to the 11 per cent tax.

Could the minister tell us what answer he gave to those representations or to those who complained to the minister?

[*English*]

What was the minister's answer to these complaints from people in Canada with regard to the 11 per cent tax?

Mr. Sharp: Well, Mr. Speaker, I gave part of that answer in my budget speech, when I promised to remove that tax beginning next year and the year after on production machinery.

Mr. Starr: After the buildings are completed.

Mr. Sharp: In so far as buildings are concerned, I said the tax would not be removed.

NATIONAL PARKS

WATERTON LAKES—REQUEST FOR REPLACEMENT OF SOFTBALL DIAMOND

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lawrence E. Kindt (Macleod): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, but since he is not in his seat perhaps his parliamentary secretary will accept the question. I would ask the minister to table a copy of all correspondence between the minister and park officials both in Ottawa and Waterton Lakes national park concerning the replacement of a softball diamond for the use of all in Waterton park, which park officials and the minister have refused to re-establish somewhere in the park.

An hon. Member: Let's play ball.

Mr. Kindt: That is what I and the people out there are asking the minister to do.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question cannot be accepted.

COAL

INQUIRY AS TO REPORT ON ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. I would ask the minister whether the Donald report has yet been received. If not, when does he expect it, and upon receiving it will it be released?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): The Donald report has not yet been received. When it is, we shall determine whether it would be appropriate to have it tabled.