

Inquiries of the Ministry

clear, will the minister state whether any transfer of funds was made between departments, from one department to another?

Mr. Benson: Not to my knowledge. The only transfer of this kind that could be made would be with the approval of Treasury Board, and to my knowledge no such transfers were made.

[Later:]

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of the different statements made by the Minister of National Revenue is the Prime Minister prepared to set up a special committee with the Auditor General to look into the matter that has been raised, to see if the government acted legally.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the documents have already been placed before the house. There will be an occasion no doubt in the normal course of events for the Auditor General to appear before a committee to discuss this and other matters.

Mr. Woolliams: Will that be three years from now.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**FAILURE OF MINISTER TO GIVE LEGAL OPINIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I wish to direct a question to the Solicitor General. I did not send him notice because the incident on which the question is based occurred in the house a few moments ago. My ordinary vocation is that of a rancher who has not had much contact with the legal profession during his life, thank the Lord. My question is this: The Minister of National Revenue obtained a legal opinion from the Department of Justice. Why is it, when members of the opposition ask the Minister of Justice for a legal opinion in the interpretation of any statute, that he rises and says that he is not able to give a legal opinion. What is the reason for this?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is a very interesting question, but it is not in order.

[Mr. Churchill.]

HIGHWAY SAFETY**PARTICIPATION OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN CAMPAIGN**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey North): My question is addressed to the Secretary of State (Miss LaMarsh). Would the Secretary of State use her good offices to influence the C.B.C. and the National Film Board to take part in an intensive highway safety campaign for the duration of 1967, as a centennial project?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that the question should be placed on the order paper.

INDIAN AFFAIRS**MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER AND INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): My question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. May I ask the minister whether he will reconsider his decision of yesterday, which I understand was that he would not meet a delegation of four persons relating to certain matters concerning Indian people in Alberta. Would he arrange to meet the gentlemen in question, to hear their complaints?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This question is a bit mysterious, and is couched in general terms making it impossible for the Chair at this time to decide if it is of national importance and great urgency. I suggest to the hon. member, if it is of great urgency, that he discuss it at the adjournment debate this evening.

Mr. Howard: The question is so urgent that it cannot wait until ten o'clock this evening. An arrangement was made yesterday for a group of native Indians to meet with the minister at 1:45. For some reason unknown to me the minister was not able to meet these men, or failed or refused to meet them. I ask him now to reconsider his decision, because the lives of a number of native Indians in Alberta hinge on this meeting.

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Yesterday Messrs. Daniels and Samson made arrangements to meet me at 1:45. I was in my office, and they appeared with two members of the Canadian Indian Youth Council. I told Messrs. Daniels and Samson that I should be