

Inquiries of the Ministry

concrete way with the provinces are obviously different, may I ask the Minister of Finance first, and the Minister of National Health and Welfare second, whether they would undertake to make a statement to the house as to the discussions that have taken place with their counterparts in the provinces in connection with this matter?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, I think that the proposal I made to the provinces was basically the same as that made in 1966 by the minister of finance.

Mr. Lewis: But we ought to hear it.

Mr. Benson: I did not materially change the proposal. I referred the Leader of the Opposition to some pages in *Hansard* and I would also refer this hon. member to them. They outline the programs involved. In addition to this, I would refer him to the Medical Care Act and what is contained therein.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance a supplementary question. In order that the government and the provinces may at all times have careful and precise knowledge of the cost of these programs, would the minister lend them his computers?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, I would be very pleased to if they need them.

[Translation]

FINANCE**QUEBEC—LOANS FOR HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance.

Since the Canadian government has made a \$32 million loan to the Newfoundland Hydro-Electric Commission at 5½ and 5¾ per cent interest per year, as recorded at page 2201 of *Hansard*, and since Hydro Quebec has just floated a \$50 million bond issue, does the Canadian government intend to grant the same facilities to Hydro Quebec at the same rate as Newfoundland?

[English]

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I believe the loans to Newfoundland—though I should like to check this first—are made under the Atlantic Provinces Power Development Act, which is a specific act passed by parliament setting out the conditions under which loans can be made to the

Atlantic provinces for this particular kind of development. It is, of course, part of the development program to encourage expansion in the Atlantic provinces and to overcome regional disparities.

CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP**CONDITIONS RESPECTING PRIVILEGES TO BRITISH IMMIGRANTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State. Would the minister make a statement to clear up the widespread misunderstandings and confusion which have been created by statements reportedly made by the minister, and particularly by his parliamentary secretary, concerning the alleged preferment presently granted Commonwealth citizens in relation to the conditions which must be met prior to their obtaining Canadian citizenship? I ask this question because of the statement attributed to the minister and his parliamentary secretary to the effect that British subjects pay—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member has asked his question; I believe it is that a statement be made by the minister on motions.

Mr. Nesbitt: With great respect, Your Honour, unless I explain in a sentence the basis for my question it would be very difficult for the minister to know to which statement I have reference.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question was asked on a number of occasions yesterday so I am sure the minister knows what it is about.

Mr. Nesbitt: With great respect, Mr. Speaker, the statement attributed to the minister was that citizenship would cost British subjects \$5 whereas in fact it costs \$10.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**INQUIRY AS TO POSSIBLE ECONOMIES**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State. In view of the government's straitened financial position and the resultant economies in the distribution of printed media of communication, as represented by the recent Post Office Act amendments, is it the intention of the government to effect similar economies in