

*Inquiries of the Ministry***BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

INQUIRY AS TO TABLING OF ESTIMATES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. H. McMillan (Welland): I wish to address a question to the Minister of Finance. When are the estimates for the current fiscal year likely to be tabled?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): Soon, Mr. Speaker.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT—INQUIRY AS TO CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Could I ask the Minister of Justice whether he is in a position today, or whether he will be in a position in the immediate future, to advise the house when the amendments which were forecast in the speech from the throne relative to capital punishment are to be introduced, in view of the fact that a second 14-year old boy has been sentenced to hang?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): No, I am not in a position to give a definite answer to that question, but the situation to which the hon. member has referred is very much in our minds.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

TIMMINS, ONT.—REPORTED CARRYING OF MAIL BY STRIKEBREAKERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. W. Martin (Timmins): I wish to direct a question to the Postmaster General; I regret that I was unable to send the hon. gentleman notice. Has the minister received reports or complaints from Timmins, Ontario to the effect that mail contracts are being carried out by strikebreakers at rates as low as 65 cents an hour and, if so, does the minister contemplate taking any action?

Hon. W. M. Hamilton (Postmaster General): I am not aware of having received any such complaints.

MONTREAL—REPORTED UNUSED VACANT SPACE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Azellus Denis (St. Denis): May I direct a question to the Postmaster General. Before I do so, may I express my joy at seeing his picture in this morning's newspaper. I looked yesterday but I could not find one, and I was worried because I thought the hon. gentleman was sick or something.

Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace): My photograph was in two newspapers today. That makes up for yesterday.

[Mrs. Fairclough.]

Mr. Denis: Good for you. My question is this. Is the minister aware that in the Montreal post office almost 2,000 square feet were vacated and made available six months ago, since when the space has been used as a cloakroom. Will the minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I take it that the hon. member's question relates to an event of six months ago. It does not seem to me of very great importance and I suggest that unless he has a question of urgency to ask—

Mr. Denis: Mr. Speaker, this floor space is still available, and I want to know what is the purpose of retaining such a wide space without making proper use of it.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member can get his answer on the order paper.

THE BUDGET

SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The house resumed, from Friday, January 20, consideration of the motion of Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance) that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the house to go into committee of ways and means.

Mrs. Jean Casselman (Grenville-Dundas): Mr. Speaker, it is with much pleasure that I rise today to support wholeheartedly the budget presented before Christmas by our honoured and admired Minister of Finance.

In accordance with our system of government, those who receive the least support in the country find themselves obliged to find fault with the government. This obligation can impose quite an effort at times, and never has criticism been so confused and contradictory as it is at the present time. There are those who say the government has worked too slowly and those who say it is working too fast; there are those who say it is doing too little and those who say it is doing too much. I submit that the very confusion of the criticism is as great a compliment as the government could receive.

I have, naturally, known many members of the opposition for many years, and I like them personally. Since I have been sitting in this house as a member my respect has increased for those whose honesty of purpose keeps them so hard at work. But I have decreased respect for those who are irresponsible in placing upon this government a degree of responsibility which no thinking Canadian would want any government to accept, a degree of responsibility which was not accepted by the Liberals in 1938 when the unemployment figures were greater than they are at the present time—11.4 per cent—or again in 1939 when the percentage was