

Inquiries of the Ministry

reference to this subject in last night's budget speech, would the minister now advise the house as to the nature of the experiments that are to be performed on or in these departments?

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, without agreeing for a minute with the phrases used by my hon. friend in introducing his question, on the recommendation of the organization which has been set up to consider and implement the proposals of the Glassco commission it was decided by the treasury board to employ firms of management consultants to work with officials of the four departments referred to in studying the detailed application of the recommendations of the Glassco commission in respect of those particular departments.

FINANCE

REPORTED INCREASE IN BANKRUPTCY

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Finance. A dominion bureau of statistics release shows an 18½ per cent increase in bankruptcy in the last quarter of 1963 as compared with 1962. Can the Minister of Finance explain this alarming increase?

FAMILY ALLOWANCES—INCREASED PAYMENTS TO STUDENTS IN QUEBEC

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montréal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question to ask the Minister of Finance. Can the minister tell the house whether the supplementary family allowances to be paid by Ottawa to 16 and 17 year old students will be added to the similar allowances already paid by the Lesage government to Quebec students?

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to speak for the Lesage government. The allowances referred to in last night's budget will be paid to all people who qualify for them.

[Translation]

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance. In view of his excellent relations with the premier of the province of Quebec, can he ask the latter not to act in the way he did at the time of the \$10 increase to pensioners?

[Text]

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for underlining the excellent relationships that prevail between this government and the government of the province of Quebec—

[Mr. Rheaume.]

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Gordon:—and I will do everything possible to see that those relationships are maintained.

INQUIRY AS TO BREAKDOWN OF SALES TAX REVENUE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. V. Pugh (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Does the Department of Finance keep figures on the revenue that has accrued to the crown as a result of sales tax introduced in the 1963 budget and, in particular, is there a breakdown—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Pugh: A simple yes or no will do. Is there a breakdown showing the amount received from the lumber industry and the building suppliers throughout Canada?

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is a question for the order paper.

Mr. Pugh: With respect, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member certainly cannot expect the minister to answer a detailed question like that without notice.

Mr. Pugh: With respect, Mr. Speaker, it requires a straight answer, yes or no. Does he keep figures?

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

USE OF MAILS FOR DISSEMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION LITERATURE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, on Friday last the right hon. Leader of the Opposition asked me two questions. I assured him that I would answer them as soon as possible. He asked if I had any information about a certain postal box, namely box 22, station E, Toronto 4. He inquired whether that particular box had been brought to my attention and whether it had been closed. I told him that I had received information on the subject from a member of the press gallery, but I was not sure whether it was the same box.

I have since confirmed that the box mentioned by my right hon. friend is the same one that had been brought to my attention by the gentleman in the gallery. Our investigations show that box 22 was rented in 1961 to a senior citizen in Toronto, who furnished excellent references to the postal authorities. The only suggestion that the box in question may have been used for other than legitimate purposes has come from the member of the press gallery and from my right hon. friend. No information has been brought to