

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, since one does not know the contents of the report it is rather difficult to comment on it, and I intend to take no more than a minute to make one suggestion. The minister indicated that the tabling of this report is not to be taken as a precedent for the tabling of task force reports. I had assumed that it was a precedent, because another report in the field of foreign ownership was tabled the other day. I thought the minister was merely assuring us that the report he is tabling today likewise did not have government support, and this was why he emphasized that point.

• (2:40 p.m.)

I have been in touch, so far as it has been possible through reading the newspapers, with the work of the task force, and I look forward to seeing the appendix because I understand the task force is working on a large range of subjects.

I join the hon. member for Halifax in expressing my regret that the controversial Bill C-186 had to be introduced at all before the report of this task force was in our hands, because I imagine there will be recommendations relating to the entire field of labour-management relationships, which is what is important.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, it is rather difficult to pass judgment on a report that has just been tabled in the house by the minister. We reserve the right to examine the report, and then to discuss its value.

[*English*]

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the house is happy to hear that the actions of the government during the last few days will not necessarily be considered a precedent. I trust that what happened yesterday will fall into the same category, though I doubt if the government will be prepared to argue in the future that it was not a precedent.

We look forward to reading this report because it has to do with those relationships that affect essential services. If there is a strike in those services the economy of our nation is tied up.

The report is somewhat late. We know that some provinces, including the province of British Columbia, are already well launched into important legislation in this field. Despite

[Mr. McCleave.]

the report's recommendations, the federal government's efforts will probably come too late.

FINANCE**INQUIRY AS TO FURTHER FISCAL PROPOSALS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of indications from government officials that they intend to continue collecting the 5 per cent surcharge on income tax, which was defeated in the house, does the government intend to bring before this house shortly a fiscal proposal similar to the one that was defeated?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the first part of that question ought to be directed more properly to the Minister of National Revenue. I can say, answering both parts of the question, that the government is now taking measures to change the deductions at the source—I refer to the tables that are prepared—and it is not the intention of the government to reintroduce Bill C-193.

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Is it the intention of the government to bring forward a new tax measure prior to the recess?

Mr. Sharp: The government is now considering the revenue measures necessary to replace those contained in Bill C-193.

Mr. Starr: I repeat my supplementary question. Does the government intend to bring in a tax measure to replace the one which was defeated, prior to any recess which the government may contemplate?

Mr. Sharp: I do not think I can add to the answer I gave. The government's intentions in this respect will be made known in due course.

Mr. Starr: I address this supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister. Has he consulted with and received advice from the government's financial adviser in these matters, the hon. member for Villeneuve?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): The hon. gentleman should not be so jealous.