

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

FINANCEINTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION BASED ON WHITE PAPER
ON TAX REFORM

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In view of the great uncertainty on the part of business and commerce and their plans for future expansion as a result of the white paper on taxation, when does the minister expect to introduce legislation for tax changes based on that document?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): In the spring budget, Mr. Speaker. I might clarify my answer. The spring budget will include tax reform but not necessarily the entire contents of the white paper.

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HOUSINGACTION TO INCREASE CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC HOUSING
—INCENTIVES IN NEWFOUNDLAND

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio in charge of housing. While statistics indicate progress in housing starts in the low-cost sector, will the minister advise if anything is being done in co-operation with the provinces to step up production in the area of public housing where the needs remain acute in many parts of the country?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): During 1969 and 1970 the federal commitment to public housing will have had the effect of doubling the whole stock of public housing in two years compared with the previous activities of some 25 years. That emphasis will continue into 1971 and beyond. In addition, we have offered to the provinces of participation the idea of acquiring from existing stock through long-term lease accommodation for which we will share in terms of public housing subsidies. In this way, they will be in the position of not having to wait for new building production or provide capital investment.

Mr. Marshall: In view of the high cost of construction in the province of Newfoundland, which is causing delays in providing this type of housing, will the minister consider incentives for the construction industry in the province in order to create an impetus to overcome the serious shortage?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, we embarked on that in an exploratory way this year. We will certainly continue discussions with the provincial government of Newfoundland and any members of the industry who are willing to sit down with us to see what can be done in this field.

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): A supplementary question. Does the minister think that spending 60 cents per capita on public housing is sufficient to meet public housing needs?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

POST OFFICERESTORATION OF SATURDAY MAIL DELIVERY IN LIGHT
OF MASS MEDIA REPORT

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio in charge of the post office. It arises from the emphasis placed upon improved postal services by the Senate committee. Does the minister specifically propose having the post office return to Saturday deliveries in view of the importance attached to this by the Senate committee in connection with a vigorous press in Canada?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, we found the Davey report very interesting. The department is now examining the part of the report that concerns it and, in fact, I think the question is a little premature. We shall be able to reach conclusions once we have studied the matter.

MONTREAL—DISCUSSIONS WITH FORMER EMPLOYEES
OF G. LAPALME INCORPORATED

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Considering the answer the minister gave last week to the effect that the file on the employees of G. Lapalme Inc. had not been shelved, could he say whether there were negotiations in Ottawa this week and whether those former Lapalme employees can still hope to be hired by his department?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Minister without Portfolio): This is a very delicate matter, Mr. Speaker. There have been no meetings with former employees of G. Lapalme Inc. for two weeks when they were offered something for the Christmas season. We hope to meet with them soon.

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[English]

COMMUNICATIONSINQUIRY AS TO INCREASE IN COST OF CONSTRUCTION
OF SATELLITE

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I wish to address a question to the President of the Treasury Board. Has Treasury Board approved or does it have before it for approval any increase in the cost of construction of the satellite Anik from the bid submitted by Hughes Aircraft when the government accepted in the amount of \$30 million?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. gentleman perhaps does not appreciate the fact that the construction of and arrangements for the launching of the satellite are carried out by a Crown corporation. Questions regarding changes in cost would have to be directed to, and information obtained from, that corporation.