

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member's representations are very interesting and I am sure they will be noted by the minister.

**FINANCE**

REPRESENTATIONS TO U.S.—APPLICATION OF  
CANADIAN LEGISLATION TO  
U.S. COMPANIES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I have a puck to direct to the Minister of Finance. May I ask the minister whether, in view of the report in the morning newspapers that the United States deficit in its balance of payments in 1965 was the lowest that country has known since 1958, he will consider making further representations to the authorities in Washington to rescind the troublesome guide lines which threaten to interfere with Canada's economic and political sovereignty?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I will be visiting with the respective secretaries of the United States cabinet on March 4 and I can assure the hon. gentleman that the matter he has raised will be a subject of discussion.

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance. In view of Washington's direct investment guide lines which have been extended to Canada and which are designed to improve the United States balance of payments position at the expense of Canada, will the minister take action requesting United States subsidiaries in Canada to file quarterly returns at Ottawa indicating the extent of their compliance with the United States guide lines?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, my first comment on that question is that it is really quite impossible for the United States to improve its position at the expense of Canada, and that is the reason we have suggested to the United States authorities that these guide lines on direct investment should not apply to us.

With regard to the second question, I will have to take the hon. gentleman's suggestion under consideration.

**Mr. Crouse:** I have a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The other day the Minister of Finance stated that in the event the United States guide lines were affecting

Canada he would take action for the benefit of the Canadian economy. May I ask the minister just what action he could contemplate taking unless he ascertains the amount of compliance by United States companies in Canada as a result of these guide lines?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is now submitting an argument to the Minister of Finance.

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister if we can have his assurance that when he meets with the United States authorities on March 4 he will not tell them what he told the Canadian people last December, that these guide lines are an economic windfall for Canada?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**PENITENTIARIES**

COLLINS BAY—INVESTIGATION INTO  
ESCAPE OF PRISONERS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Prince Edward-Lennox):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Justice. Is he able to report to the house the findings resulting from the special investigation into the prison break by three prisoners from Collins Bay penitentiary last Wednesday who were later captured near St. Catharines?

**Mr. Speaker:** Obviously this is a matter of great general interest but I suggest to the hon. member that it should really be placed on the order paper.

**MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND**

INQUIRY AS TO EXTENSION OF PERIOD

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Has he met the provincial ministers regarding the municipal development loan fund and what is his position?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I am meeting the ministers of the provinces on this subject this afternoon.

**Mr. Starr:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. When will the house be informed of the decision of the government?

**Mr. Sharp:** As soon as it is made, Mr. Speaker.