

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

was a decision of the house taken on the request that the motion be put. The motion was put; a decision was reached by the house. The reflections of the hon. member, or his comments, might have been acceptable in the course of debate, but in view of the fact that there was no debate I suggest his remarks cannot be made at this time on a point of order.

## DOMINION MARINE ASSOCIATION—APPLICATION OF LABOUR (STANDARDS) CODE

Motion No. 190—**Mr. Howard:**

That an order of the house do issue for a copy of all correspondence, telegrams or other documents exchanged between the government or any agency or department thereof and the Dominion Marine Association dated on or about November 22, regarding the application or deferment of, or relating to Part I of the Canada Labour (Standards) Code.

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, this motion is acceptable to the government and the correspondence can be filed forthwith or very shortly. In fact I have already given the hon. member a copy of the letter.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the motion deemed to have been adopted by the house?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

**BANKRUPTCY**

## NORTH AMERICAN GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY—CHARGES FOLLOWING DISAPPEARANCE OF SECURITIES

On the orders of the day:

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. It has to do with the disappearance of \$529,000 in securities from the custody of the North American General Insurance, termed by the Minister of Finance a theft. I should like to ask the Solicitor General whether this is being investigated by the R.C.M.P. Has any charge been laid regarding the disappearance of that very considerable sum and, if no action has been taken as yet by the R.C.M.P., what communications have taken place which obviate or explain the reason for such a long delay?

**Hon. L. T. Pennell (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, I have no personal knowledge of the matter referred to by the right hon. Leader of the Opposition. However, perhaps I may be permitted to comment that, as the house is

[Mr. Speaker.]

well aware, the administration of justice generally falls within the jurisdiction of the provinces and theft, I feel, would be a matter to be dealt with by the provincial authorities. However, as I have indicated, I have no personal knowledge but would be pleased to make inquiries.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, the minister of course knows that the company from which the alleged theft took place is a dominion incorporated insurance company, and as such is the responsibility of the federal government. In this connection I would suggest that the minister look into the question of prosecution.

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. May I ask the Solicitor General whether he would not be well advised to follow the example set by his colleague, the Minister of Justice, who now is prosecuting, for violation of the Criminal Code, some persons in the province of Quebec in respect of certain activities they were alleged to have been engaged in.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for York South.

**INDUSTRY**

## CANADA-U.S. AUTOMOTIVE AGREEMENT—ENTITLEMENT TO TRANSITIONAL BENEFITS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. I should like to ask the hon. minister whether he has received a letter from Mr. George Burt, the Canadian director of the United Automobile Workers, protesting against the minister's proposal that the transitional assistance benefits be paid only after the supplementary unemployment benefits have been exhausted by laid off employees as a result of the Canada-U.S. agreement. If he has received the letter, would he inform the house whether this policy has been definitely decided upon and whether regulations to this effect are in preparation or have been adopted.

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I have received such a letter. Government policy in this matter was announced in the house some weeks ago, after discussions with Mr. Burt and some of his colleagues, and after extended discussion with his executive assistant, who remained here and participated in the detailed discussions