

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

the advantages to the City of Toronto of revitalizing the Canadian National Exhibition, and of changing its form and shape in order to make it even more attractive to visitors from our province and outside our province. The hon. member may be sure we will do everything possible to co-operate in the development of that great Canadian exhibition.

**Mr. Ricard:** That's why nothing is done.

**Mr. Hees:** The minister has made a most interesting hometown speech. My question was, does the government intend to honour the pledge of former prime minister Pearson?

While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to ask a supplementary question. Now that the principle has been established that the federal government is to assist local exhibitions, is the government to designate the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce or any other minister as its representative to whom local fair boards should apply for financial assistance?

**HIGHWAY SAFETY****RECALL OF GENERAL MOTORS PRODUCTS TO EXAMINE SUSPECTED DEFECTS**

**Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport which has an important bearing on certain transportation matters. Bearing in mind the massive recall of millions of General Motors cars and trucks for examination of suspected defects, will the minister look into that situation as it affects Canadian consumers and the safety of Canadians.

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport):** The answer is yes, Mr. Speaker. The director of auto safety has already had meetings with officials of General Motors. Every necessary action will be taken in this country to assure the safety of the travelling public.

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Considering recent disclosures, are members of the minister's department charged with auto safety prepared to introduce regulations setting standards of minimum safety in order to obviate in future incidents such as we have been discussing here.

**Mr. Hellyer:** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the house a few weeks ago, at the conference I attended in Quebec City of provincial ministers of transport, and ministers responsible for auto safety, it was agreed that the federal government would introduce legislation with

[Mr. Hellyer.]

respect to minimum safety standards for automobiles at the point of manufacture or at the point of entry into Canada. So far as I know that proposal will be proceeded with as soon as reasonably possible. I should point out however that that kind of legislation gives no guarantee that the kind of fault that has just been found will not occur again. Often there are design faults which show up only after weeks, months, or in some cases, years of service. Although design standards to protect the travelling public will be set there will always be the possibility that experience will disclose errors in design. When that happens, corrective action must be taken at the earliest opportunity. That has been done in this case.

**FINANCE****LOAN TO COMMONWEALTH TRUST COMPANY**

**Mr. Douglas A. Hogarth (New Westminster):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Did the federal government directly or indirectly at any time recommend to the government of British Columbia that that government should extend a \$3 million loan, or any loan, to Commonwealth Trust Company of British Columbia to subsidize the losses of that company or its subsidiaries?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** No, Mr. Speaker.

**INCOME TAX****APPLICATION TO INTEREST ON ANNUITIES BEFORE AND AFTER MATURITY**

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. It affects many Canadians holding annuities and insurance policies, and I ask it to clear up a misunderstanding. Does the new income tax apply to the interest element on annuities before and after maturity? I am interested in what happens before maturity. Does it apply also in a similar way to annuity planned insurance policies, even if the person in question elected to postpone acceptance of benefits prior to the implementation of the new tax?

**Mr. Speaker:** I would suggest to the hon. member that he is asking the minister for an interpretation of the statutes, and that therefore is not a proper question.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Maybe I could rephrase it. It is not an interpretation. I might just mention, Mr. Speaker, various people who are