

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, last night the hon. member for Edmonton West put that question to me on a point of order. I said that clause 5 was a technical requirement to accommodate the increase in borrowing authority caused by the unusual success of the Canada Savings Bond campaign. Obviously, as those funds are disbursed, the outstanding debt of the country on the short term will go back to where it was before the House gave the additional authority last night. I would say that the hon. member for Edmonton West put that question to me in clear terms last night and I answered it in clear terms.

Mr. Stevens: A point of order, Mr. Speaker. With all due respect, that question was not put last night. I am asking if we can have an undertaking that we will return within the ceiling approved last March.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, on that point of order, I would just ask the hon. gentleman to look at *Hansard* for last night where I think he will see that the exchange between the hon. member for Edmonton West and myself on that point brought this out. I would say to him that a new ceiling has been established by parliament. As the cash balances are used for next year's cash deficit, then of course the ceiling will be undoubtedly lower.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—SUGGESTION OF MR. JUSTICE NORRIS THAT AN INQUIRY IS DESIRABLE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question was for the Prime Minister but in his absence I will put it to the Solicitor General. In light of the statement made by Mr. Justice Norris, an established expert on the SIU, that in his view another royal commission would be valuable, will the minister take this suggestion into consideration and discuss the matter and report to the House at an early date?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I understand that Justice Norris has retired. The Minister of Justice has approached the government of Ontario and asked them to provide him with evidence with respect to the requirement for an inquiry. I am not sure whether we have received an answer from Ontario yet.

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for his answer but I should like to ask, in view of the obvious necessity of having a royal commission in the first place and in view of the current developments in the situation, does he not agree that there is sufficient indication that he should take the suggestion of Mr. Justice Norris very seriously and look into the matter?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, as I said Mr. Justice Norris conducted his inquiry ten years ago. I do not know how "au courant" he is with conditions today. The government of Ontario is looking into the evidence and the Minister of Justice has requested them to send all material to him so that we can make a decision. If there is enough evidence

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for an inquiry, we will have one but we are waiting for that evidence.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—NEW EVIDENCE AS BASIS FOR FEDERAL INQUIRY

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Solicitor General. In view of the rejection by the government of my motion calling for a federal investigation into the SIU in spite of my specific charges and the new evidence that I have before me, has the minister changed his mind that any such charges—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I want to point out in passing that the hon. member, in saying something about the rejection of his proposed motion pursuant to Standing Order 43, did indicate, perhaps inadvertently, that it was a government rejection. I think that would have to be classified as something of a reflection on a proceeding that took place in the House which may be not quite proper. I do not know whether it is or not but I do not think it is possible to make that kind of reflection on a parliamentary proceeding.

Mr. Jelinek: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will change my question to ask, based on the fact that I have new evidence and I have laid specific charges, would the minister now reconsider his stand and initiate a federal inquiry into this matter forthwith?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the hon. member has a responsibility to turn his evidence over to the RCMP, the Ontario provincial police or the attorney general of that province. They would be pleased to see this evidence.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. In answer to a question from the hon. member for Central Nova yesterday the Minister of Labour said as shown at page 2106 of *Hansard*:

I will say right now in the House in answer to the hon. member that if anybody wishes to launch a complaint against the present practice, or back up any allegations with any facts at all we will look into the matter.

I am willing to give the information to the Solicitor General or the Minister of Labour. Now, that I have made a specific complaint will the minister look into the matter seriously?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member did not specify which minister.

Mr. Jelinek: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Labour.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will look into the matter.