

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. MacInnis: While the Prime Minister is giving consideration to my question will he give consideration to the uncertainty under which the miners of Cape Breton are living because of the unjust society he is running?

INCOME TAX**REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION OF OLD AGE PENSIONERS**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct this question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that the minister has put off until after the Easter recess the bringing in of his bill to amend the Income Tax Act, will he now consider including in that bill, when he does bring it in, provision to make it unnecessary for people who have only their old age security pension and the guaranteed income supplement to pay income tax thereon?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of change of exemptions which was not provided for in the resolution I presented to the house. As my friend knows, the whole matter of personal exemptions and tax reform in this country is under consideration. I hope to bring in a white paper in this regard in June.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, is the minister not aware that we have changed the rule since his earlier resolution was passed and that the bill he will now bring in will be a bill de novo, and that he could alter it to provide for the change I have suggested.

Mr. Benson: I am quite aware I could change the bill.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): In view of the minister's use of the word "hope" in respect of what we took to be a commitment that the white paper would be brought in in June, is this no longer assured but purely an expression of hope on the part of the minister?

Mr. Benson: I have learned that in government everything is a hope. My intention is to produce a white paper in June if it is at all possible to do so.

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, could the Minister of Finance inform the house, in view of the fact that the Minister of National Health and Welfare is [Mr. Trudeau.]

not with us today, that the question raised by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre with regard to the raising of the exemption for those in receipt of pension assistance will come under the details of the review currently being carried on by his department in respect of the matter of welfare and so on?

Mr. Benson: I am sure all provisions surrounding our welfare programs are being considered and studied by the department.

[Translation]

NATIONAL DEFENCE**A.B.M. SYSTEM—USE OF CANADIAN BASES BY U.S.**

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence.

Is he now ready to answer the question I put to the Prime Minister last Wednesday, March 26 as to whether Canada is committed or has agreed to allow the American government to use Canadian bases located in the Canadian Far North, in order to establish an emergency airborne system, and has the government pledged itself to supply those bases or to allow the United States to use such bases on our territory?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I would like to look into that.

[English]

MEDICAL SERVICE TO DEPENDANTS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. Has medical service to dependants on a Canadian forces base been discontinued as of yesterday and, if so, is this related to the introduction of medicare in the province of Manitoba?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I would like to check it, but this would be news to me. I know that we adapt our rates to provincial rates. I think that is the only change that has been contemplated. I will have to check, but I would be very surprised.

[Later:]

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I have been provided