

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

oners' reactions not only to administrative control but also to inappropriate programs?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, I have already announced the steps which we have taken in that respect: they are different. There is no question of an ombudsman because I think that one man alone cannot handle that job. Our system and our means of communication with the prisoners must be improved, and it is to that end that our efforts are now being made.

\* \* \*

[English]

**WELFARE****ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PROVINCES BECAUSE OF LAPSE OF SEASONAL UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS**

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** I should like to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. Since seasonal unemployment benefits will run out as of next Monday, does the government have any plans to provide financial assistance to the provinces to the tune of at least \$40 million as the provinces will in effect have to pay these benefits in welfare measures?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I do not accept the hypothesis upon which this question is based. The government is now paying 50 per cent of these costs through the plans already in effect.

**Mr. Nesbitt:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, for the Acting Prime Minister as he does not accept the previous one. Has the government any plans to extend seasonal benefits so that people will not be on relief or do they plan to give more money for the benefit of pregnant elephants in Malaysia?

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** I have a supplementary or related question for the Minister of Finance. Has the minister two budgets prepared and is it his intention to introduce budget one if the government wins the by-elections and budget two if they do not?

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

\* \* \*

**AIR CANADA****PROVISION OF SEPARATE SEATING AREA ON PLANES FOR NON-SMOKERS**

**Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey-Simcoe):** I had a question for the Minister of Transport but in his absence perhaps I could direct it to the Acting Prime Minister. Has the government given any consideration to providing separate seating areas on Air Canada planes for non-smokers in view of the fact that these facilities are available on most other types of travel accommodation?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I wonder how urgent this question is. I suggest to the hon. member that it is the type of question which would normally be placed on the order paper.

[Mr. Paproski.]

**POWER****PROPOSED JAMES BAY HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT—ALLEGED STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES ON USE OF FOREIGN CAPITAL**

**Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources in connection with a statement he made about the \$6 billion James Bay hydro project. The minister is reported to have said that "massive inflows of foreign capital" to finance power projects and other resource developments could disrupt the rest of the Canadian economy. May I ask the minister whether he has made these views known to the province of Quebec and, if so, what was the reply?

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** I am not sure, Mr. Speaker, where my hon. friend is getting these views of mine, but what I have said is—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The question is acceptable only to the extent that the hon. member is inviting the minister to make a statement, but I suggest that he cannot comment or refer to a statement made outside the House. The rule is well known that such statements can be referred to only to the extent that a member may inquire whether the statement represents government policy.

**Mr. Saltsman:** May I direct the same question to the Acting Prime Minister and ask whether the statement made by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources regarding the danger of massive capital inflows in case the James Bay hydro project is proceeded with reflects government policy?

**Mr. Greene:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. The hon. member is alleging that I made some statement of which he has no evidence. I do not think he is entitled to do that.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Is the hon. member rising on a question of privilege?

**Mr. Saltsman:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, on the same question of privilege.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. If the hon. member will resume his seat, I will suggest to him and to the minister that this is obviously not a question of privilege. I had the opportunity earlier today to indicate to hon. members that a dispute over facts cannot give rise to a question of privilege. This is a dispute between the member and the minister as to what was or was not said outside the House, and that should not be the subject of debate at this time.

**Mr. Saltsman:** In view of the report I have before me, which I presume is accurate unless proven otherwise, is the Acting Prime Minister in a position to answer the question I put to him?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I think it all rests upon whether or not the