

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order to bring to the attention of the Prime Minister that at present on the order paper there still remain some 145 unanswered questions, not counting the returns that were made and the questions that were answered today. I would ask the Prime Minister to prevail upon his ministers to pay more attention to the questions that are directed to them and stand on the order paper, and deal with them as expeditiously as possible so that answers may be given to the hon. members requiring them.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I will be glad to bring that matter to the attention of the ministers, and I hope my hon. friend will also be able to bring to the attention of his colleagues the form in which questions should be put in order that the answers might be expedited.

Mr. Starr: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. It is a well known fact, even to the Prime Minister, that questions must be submitted to the Clerk to assure that they are in proper form before they are placed on the order paper.

FINANCE**INQUIRY AS TO PRESENTATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY MEASURES**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Perth): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance whether he is in a position to announce the date of the supplementary budget.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have spoken to the house leader, who will have some discussions with the members opposite about the form this announcement should take. We have a date in mind, and as soon as these consultations are concluded we can make an announcement.

Mr. Monteith: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that on Friday the minister agreed to a budget debate, will he not now accept his responsibility and stipulate an early date?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question as posed is argumentative.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the Minister of Finance and Receiver General?

[Mr. Nielsen.]

Following the announcement of November 10 last, can the minister tell us whether he is considering the possibility of reducing the payment of interest on the national debt instead of reducing the personal income by means of a tax increase?

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I feel the question is out of order.

[*Translation*]

[*Later:*]

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the hon. Minister of Finance, who intends to pay a visit to the New York financial circles. Could he tell us whether he intends to knock at the same door and hopes to be able to kneel before the same people as the premier of Quebec?

[*English*]

POWER**COLUMBIA RIVER—REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF BONUS AND OVERDUE INTEREST**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Prime Minister. I apologize for not sending him notice, but I have been busy on the phone as usual. It is a simple question. Can the Prime Minister inform the house what progress has been made in negotiations with the government of the United States for the payment of the \$12 million due for the early completion of the Duncan dam, and the interest involved?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I accept the hon. gentleman's apology for not sending me notice. I was also busy on the phone. I will be glad to look into the question to see what progress has been made. I know we have taken up the matter in Washington, and it is a matter of importance and urgency. I hope the minister will be able to report tomorrow.

UNITED NATIONS**CRITICISM OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION BY CANADIAN MINISTER**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, I wanted to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture, but in his absence perhaps I should direct it to the Prime Minister. In view of the minister's criticism of the