

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Sharp: The cabinet has approved a form of legislation. I am not quite certain whether it can be introduced before the end of the present part of this session.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South): My supplementary is directed to the Minister of Justice. Is his department going to take action against the Canadian banks for the conspiracy they are carrying on in connection with this very matter?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This question is not a supplementary. It may be related in some way, but I do not believe it is a supplementary question.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege, and I shall indicate why the question is definitely a supplementary and in order. In this respect I call the attention of the house to a statement by the Minister of Finance. This statement appears on page 14281 of *Hansard* for March 21, 1967, at which time we were dealing with the Bank Act and the very situation which prevails today was outlined to the minister. In commenting on the situation at the time the minister had this to say:

This is a highly hypothetical question and perhaps I should not even attempt to answer. There are strict provisions in the law against any such conspiracy as the hon. gentleman has described.

My question now, Mr. Speaker, based on the statement by the Minister of Finance at the time the Bank Act was before the house, is directed to the Minister of Justice. I would ask the Minister of Justice whether his department intends to take action to deal with this conspiracy as described by the Minister of Finance.

[*Translation*]

Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I do not know if this question has been placed before the judicial authorities.

[*English*]

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I have a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since the answer given by the Minister of Justice—

Mr. Speaker: Order. What is this question supplementary to?

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): With your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, I had understood a further supplementary question was

[Mr. Southam.]

being asked by the hon. member for Mackenzie, and I remained in my seat only to find that another question was being asked.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker with your permission I should like to revert to the question and ask the Minister of Finance a question supplementary to the question that was put to but not answered by the Minister of Justice. Could I ask the minister what he intends to do about this particular conspiracy to which the minister himself referred?

[*Later:*]

Mr. Terence Nugent (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Now that the minister is aware of the statements made by the Minister of Finance in relation to the situation brought to his attention by the hon. member for Queens and the hon. member for Cape Breton South, would he take notice of the question and advise this house of the action he will take to make sure his department sees that justice is done in this regard?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I shall consider whether this matter actually comes under my department.

[*English*]

FISHERIES**SEALS—ACCESS TO HUNTING GROUNDS BY HUMANE SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I had a question that I wanted to ask the Minister of Fisheries, but in his absence perhaps someone on the other side will take notice of it. Having in mind the opening of the seal hunting season I wonder whether the minister would indicate, in view of the public's concern, if representatives of the humane societies are being given access to the seal hunting grounds, and whether there will be any new regulations to meet the situation?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Acting Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I will take notice of this matter and probably give an answer tomorrow.