

member, but I would prefer to await a formal proposal from those concerned. When I look at it, if it is within our responsibilities I shall certainly be pleased to comply.

TAXATION

WHITE PAPER ON REFORM—PREPARATION OF SLIDES

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. It arises from the statement he made in the House earlier today regarding the government's tax reform proposals. Who selected from the white paper the recommendations which were to be put on slides? Was it the minister himself or was it someone else? Who did the drafting and preparing of those slides?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): The slides were intended for use in connection with my exposition of the white paper. They were prepared by the National Film Board by officials who were sworn to secrecy, and they were supplied to my department.

Mr. Woolliams: Can the minister tell us who did the selecting? Who picked from the white paper certain recommendations to be illustrated by slides and accompanied by this fine writing?

Mr. Benson: I must accept responsibility for the selection. They are most informative slides, and they are not slanted in any way.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, may I ask one more supplementary question?

Mr. Speaker: I will allow one further supplementary, but I have to remind hon. members that the time allotted to the question period is running out. I ask for the co-operation of all hon. members in asking supplementary questions.

Mr. Woolliams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell us how much it cost the Canadian taxpayers to put out these slides, prepare them, and make the selection from the white paper?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is now asking for the type of information which would normally be given in answer to a written question.

Mr. Woolliams: I realize that, Mr. Speaker, but this issue was raised in the House earlier today and it affects the taxpayers directly. I am prepared to debate it at ten o'clock. It

Inquiries of the Ministry

occurs to me, though, that the minister probably has a figure of so many million dollars on the tip of his tongue and he could tell the taxpayers what it cost.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Woolliams: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Benson: I am glad to give the information, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Skeena.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

DEATH OF CHILDREN ON STURGEON LAKE RESERVE—REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Acting Prime Minister or to the leader of the House, whoever may wish to reply. Are they aware that today the RCMP is conducting an investigation into the death of two native Indian children, one aged eight months and the other aged eighteen months, who were found frozen to death in an unheated building on the Sturgeon Lake Reserve 200 to 300 miles northwest of Edmonton? If they are, would they consider withdrawing their objection to the motion proposed by the hon. member for Brandon-Souris in order that a parliamentary committee might make an inquiry into the broader aspects involved in a situation of this kind?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am sure all members of the House share the feeling of grief at the death of these children.

An hon. Member: "Shame" would be a better word.

Mr. Sharp: I might even say "shame", that a thing like this could happen in Canada. The government would welcome as much information as possible about the circumstances. The question of the motion is quite a different matter; it is very broad in scope and goes far beyond this occurrence.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Would the Acting Prime Minister or the leader of the House be prepared to authorize the committee to make such inquiries? I have no doubt there would be unanimous consent to accepting a motion on those lines if it were put forward either later today or tomorrow.