

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Later:]

Mr. L. D. Crestohl (Cartier): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance with reference to the reply he gave as to the directive concerning compact cars. Can he tell the house whether that directive also applies to cars in use by ministers?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Ministers of the crown are not provided with transportation at the expense of the treasury. Many years ago ministers were deprived of any such transportation, and they are now responsible for providing their own.

Mr. Winch: Two thousand dollars a year.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): All members of the house enjoy an expense allowance.

Mr. Caron: Does the minister believe that the \$2,000 a year is not to meet the expense of a car?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): It was provided some years ago, I think actually about 28 years ago, when the use of a motor car and chauffeur therefore provided for ministers of the crown was withdrawn. The so-called transportation allowance has remained at \$2,000 in the meantime. I do not know whether the hon. member would care to say how far \$2,000 would go today in providing for a full year's use of a motor car, its running expenses and a chauffeur.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**MONTREAL—REPORTED INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFICIALS RESPECTING UNEMPLOYED**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): May I direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Has he been able to obtain information respecting the question I asked yesterday on the orders of the day?

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have looked into the matter that the hon. member for Laurier brought to the attention of the house yesterday on the orders of the day, and I have information from the regional office in Montreal to the following effect.

No change has been made or is being made or is contemplated in the practices or procedures in dealing with claimants in any of the Montreal offices of the unemployment insurance commission. I understand that the question asked by the hon. member was based on an advertisement published in a Montreal newspaper and paid for by the Liberal party as part of their propaganda in the forthcoming provincial election.

[Mr. Speaker.]

I should like to inform the hon. member for Laurier that I do not appreciate his efforts to involve the unemployment insurance commission in this political situation, nor do I consider them helpful so far as unemployment is concerned. I might add that the photograph which appeared in the advertisement was taken early in the morning before the office opened.

I make these facts available to the hon. member, Mr. Speaker, in case he is not aware of them.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, I should like to tell the hon. gentleman at once that I based my question—

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. If the hon. member has a statement to make it should be as a point of order or privilege.

Mr. Chevrier: I make it as a question of privilege. The minister has stated that my question was based on a political advertisement of the Liberal party—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the hon. member is entitled to comment on the statement made by the minister.

Mr. Chevrier: —which statement, Mr. Speaker, is entirely erroneous. When I asked the question yesterday I held in my hand, to be seen by everybody here, a statement which appeared in *Le Devoir* and I put my question to the minister in French. There was no picture and no advertisement. It had absolutely nothing to do with the Liberal party, and the minister should know that I asked the question for information. Furthermore, the unemployment situation in Montreal is very serious at the moment—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Chevrier: —and the minister is not doing nearly as much as he should be doing.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member went a bit beyond his question of privilege. I did not hear the last of what he said, and I daresay the reporter did not either.

UNITED NATIONS**REPRESENTATIONS BY CANADIAN WELFARE COUNCIL RESPECTING REFUGEES**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twil-lingate): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister whether the government has made any progress in the