

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

FINANCE

STATEMENT BY QUEBEC PRIME MINISTER RESPECTING REFUND OF \$200 MILLION BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I want to put a question to the Minister of Finance about a statement made by Mr. Bourassa, Quebec premier, on a TV program last Sunday, to the effect that the new Liberal provincial government intended to recover the \$200 million levied by the federal government for medicare. Is the Minister of Finance—

Some hon. Members: That is not true.

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, I am asking a question and—

Mr. Speaker: Order! The hon. members should allow the hon. member for Sainte-Marie to ask his question.

Mr. Valade: I ask the Minister of Finance whether he is ready to repay this amount of \$200 million to the province of Quebec?

Mr. Speaker: I must remind the hon. member for Sainte-Marie that this question has already been asked several times and, more precisely, hardly a few days ago, when it was put to the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order! Would the hon. member resume his seat? The hon. member, if I am not mistaken, wishes to rise on a point of order.

Mr. Valade: Not on a point of order, Mr. Speaker, but on a question of privilege.

I believe that under the rules of the House hon. members, even the members on the government side, are prohibited from using abusive language or from inciting the House to disorder through offensive remarks about one of their colleagues.

Liberal members, and specially the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Loiseleur), have said that I was not telling the truth. I affirm, Mr. Speaker, that I heard this statement on channel 10, in Montreal, last Sunday.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should state as soon as possible his question of privilege.

Order. The hon. member should resume his seat until I have concluded my remarks. I

[Mr. Speaker.]

must remind him that there are only a few minutes left of the oral question period and that it would be helpful not to lose any time.

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, I would like to explain my question of privilege. I have been accused by the hon. member of not telling the truth when I asked the minister a question, and this is in opposition to Standing Orders and to parliamentary procedure. Therefore I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, to urge the hon. member to withdraw his remarks, because what I have said is absolutely true.

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is undoubtedly an argument between the hon. member for Sainte-Marie and another member concerning what might have been said in a statement made on the radio or on television. I do not think that this could be the matter of a question of privilege. I would ask all hon. members to authorize the Chair to recognize the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings.

[English]

TAXATION

WHITE PAPER ON REFORM—CHANGES SUGGESTED BY VICE-CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. Has the trial balloon which the government sent up during the weekend in the form of the much publicized interview given by the vice-chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs in which he suggested five drastic changes in the white paper on taxation, which would be a great improvement, created enough public comment to persuade the government to make these very sensible changes suggested by the hon. member?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have very serious doubts as to the form of the hon. member's question. I am sure he will appreciate this also. However, since it has been asked, perhaps the minister may wish to reply.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, no trial balloons were put up. So far as I understand, the hon. member, like the hon. member who has just spoken, speaks for himself.

Mr. Hees: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As these suggestions are the first sensible ones coming from the government side in this whole matter, will the Acting