

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to consult them if there are any procedural difficulties.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS

#### PRESENCE IN SPEAKER'S GALLERY OF MEMBERS OF NATIONAL BALLET

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to call to the attention of the House the presence in Mr. Speaker's gallery of Miss Celia Franca and members of the National Ballet, including the daughter of the hon. member for London East (Mr. Turner).

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Baldwin:** There is a ballet going on over on the government side.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The House Leader should join the ballet.

### COMBINES

#### ACTION TO PREVENT TAKEOVER OF CANADIAN COMPANIES BY FOREIGN FIRMS

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, may I go from the sublime to the ridiculous and direct a question to the Minister of Finance.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Greene:** This is the ridiculous now.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** I will get to you in a moment.

May I ask the minister a question about information given to the House by his colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, to the effect that since 1963 some 606 firms under federal jurisdiction have been taken over by foreign corporations. Has the minister or his department any measures under consideration to stop this continuing process of takeover? Also, is he considering implementing a takeover tax or other measures which would help to preserve Canada's economic independence?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, if the matter were not so serious I would have said that the question is ridiculous. But it is a very serious question. The matter has come under review in my department with the assistance of my colleague, the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Gray).

### Inquiries of the Ministry

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. A few months ago, when Royal Securities Corporation Limited was taken over by Merrill Lynch and Associates, the minister informed the House that his department was making a special study of the takeover of our financial institutions. Is he now prepared to report on that investigation? If not, how soon will it be possible for him to do so?

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, I think I mentioned before that the various exchanges in the country, the stock exchanges at Toronto, Montreal and so on, were also carrying out a concurrent study. I have had some consultations with them. The study being carried out by my department and the bank is progressing well and I hope to be able to report to the House soon after the recess.

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister now prepared to withdraw from his white paper proposals the five year depreciation tax on shares in widely held corporations? I think the minister himself now agrees that this tax will be a strong force in encouraging the loss of control of Canadian corporations.

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I doubt whether the question is in order. I am sure the minister and the Leader of the Opposition realize that that is precisely the matter we are to discuss later today. Perhaps on that ground the question ought not to be allowed.

### LABOUR CONDITIONS

#### DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEES AT U.S. BASES IN NEWFOUNDLAND

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. I respectfully request a direct answer because the matter is of interest to several thousand people concerned and involved. Is the minister in a position to assure the House on the basis of the discussions he may have had with his United States counterpart that there will be no U.S. military bases closed in Canada in 1970?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I am not sure whether this question has already been asked. In any event the minister may wish to reply in view of the importance of the matter.