

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

question to the Minister of Finance. Since the Prime Minister stated in the house on September 13 that the government's attack on poverty is based on curtailment of inflation, and since the latest Dominion Bureau of Statistics figures show that in each of the three months since that time the cost of living has been rising—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Hees:** —at a steadily accelerating rate—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Hees:** Mr. Speaker, I was just leading into my question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Perhaps the hon. member should have started with a question.

**Mr. Hees:** I am just getting to it. Does the government expect in the near future to announce its plans for reducing the cost of living, so the Prime Minister's stated objective of fighting inflation and poverty in this country can be proceeded with?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member knows the government is doing everything within its power to fight inflation and rising costs in this country. In view of what he has just said I am sure the hon. member will support wholly all the budget measures that are now before the house.

**Mr. Hees:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister of Finance referring to the increase of \$845 million in taxes that the government is imposing on the people—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Hees:** —as their means of reducing inflation?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that new car prices were a major factor in driving up the cost of living for November, and since the United States labour bureau finds that improvements which raised the prices on new cars by \$40 actually cost \$1, will the minister initiate now a special inquiry into new car prices in Canada?

**Mr. Benson:** No, Mr. Speaker.

**Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** A further supplementary question to the President of the Privy Council. Will the minister

[Mr. Hees.]

consider setting up as soon as the house resumes in January a standing committee on consumer and corporate affairs to which this matter might be referred?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council):** I am prepared to consult with my colleagues on this, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question arising out of the answer given by the Minister of Finance in regard to support for measures that are proposed in his budget. I should like to ask him when he is going to give the house the draft changes in the income tax and succession duty legislation that I requested some time ago, so the house and the country will be in a position to know what they are actually being asked to support.

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to my hon. friend privately it is a matter of house time. If he would like to pass without debate the succession duty resolution, I would be pleased to present the bill very shortly.

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether the minister has considered with his advisers how many years it will take him to close the credibility gap which he admits the government now has.

**GRAIN****PROVISION OF DRYING FACILITIES AT COUNTRY ELEVATORS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity of asking the Minister of Trade and Commerce a question relating to a question I raised on November 29, in which I asked whether the government was giving any consideration to allowing dryers at country elevators to dry grain that had been purchased by the country elevator companies, and at that time he said he would take this matter up. Are there any definite results from his investigations which he could report on this occasion?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Not today, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Korchinski:** I am sorry; I did not hear the answer.

**Mr. Pepin:** Pas aujourd'hui.