

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[English]

**Mr. Lundrigan:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. This, of course, is debate. The hon. member for Egmont has been seeking the floor on a supplementary and the Chair will recognize him and then the hon. member for Edmonton West.

**Mr. McGrath:** The minister should resign. Let somebody else get on with the job.

**Mr. MacInnis:** On a point of order—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond rises on a point of order.

**Mr. MacInnis:** My point of order arises from the fact that the Chair fails to draw to the attention of members of the cabinet, on occasions when they express opinions instead of giving answers to questions, that they are out of order. It is time the government was prevented from expressing opinions that are not in accordance with the facts.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member has just done this on behalf of the Chair and I am grateful to him. The hon. member for Edmonton West.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. We have raised some very serious questions which the minister, in his characteristic way, refused to answer. More specifically I would like to know, and I think the House is entitled to know, which policy prevails within the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. Is it the policy expounded in Halifax last week by the Minister of Transport, which appears to be a departure, or is it the policy persistently followed in this House by the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member knows that this is a debate. It has nothing to do with a point of order. The Chair has already recognized the hon. member for Edmonton West.

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**FINANCE**

RENEGOTIATION OF FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS AT FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE OR LATER MEETING

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In light of the very numerous and strong representations made by the provincial Ministers of Finance regarding fundamental points in the dominion-provincial financial accords which end on March 31, 1972 with respect to changes in the stabilization formula, the equalization formula, and the tax credit system, would the Prime Minister tell the House if consideration is being given to extending both the agenda and the time of the first ministers' conference two weeks hence to take in these matters, or will these subjects be carried forward to some future conference on

the eve of the renewing of these agreements in March next year?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the plan would be for the Ministers of Finance and provincial treasurers to report to the first ministers' conference, and at that conference we would attempt to reach a solution acceptable to everyone. If we found we did not have enough time in the three days set aside for the first ministers' conference, then it might be necessary to have a further meeting of Ministers of Finance, say in December. We have not planned such a further meeting because we are hopeful progress will be made at the first ministers' conference. But the eventualities may cause one.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** In light of the very fundamental nature of these representations which go to the heart of the federal-provincial financial accords, would the Prime Minister agree that a conference of first ministers would be necessary at the earliest possible moment in order to take up these matters so that we can get a sensible agreement in March, or are we to be faced with a *fait accompli*?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would certainly agree with that. That is why we are going to be discussing those subjects, based on the reports from the finance ministers, when we meet 13 days from now.

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**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

REPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING JAIL SENTENCE IMPOSED ON ANGLICAN DEAN OF JOHANNESBURG

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Yesterday the Prime Minister, in answer to a question from me, said he would pass it on to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Will the minister express to the government of South Africa the concern of the Canadian people at the sentence of five years' imprisonment imposed on the Anglican Dean of Johannesburg for activities that amounted to political opposition to the system of apartheid, for which the United Nations and this country have frequently expressed their abhorrence?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I share the abhorrence of the hon. member, as I am sure do all members of the House, to apartheid in South Africa. However, I should point out to the hon. member that the very reverend gentleman is now free on bail awaiting the result of an appeal against his sentence, and I do not think it would be quite proper at this time for me to express a view such as that which he has asked me to express. I can assure him, however, that the views expressed by the Canadian government in general are exactly the same as his own. The sooner apartheid ends in South Africa the better the world will be.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question.