

Mr. Colin Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): In view of this latest financial collapse of an insurance company, and since I understand that the incorporation of Baltimore Life Insurance Company is causing some concern to the mind of the Superintendent of Insurance and his department, would the minister consider taking some steps to bring about at least a temporary halt to the incorporation of new life insurance companies, perhaps to the extent of persuading private members not to sponsor these bills until there has been a thorough investigation of the situation?

Mr. Sharp: I have heard the representations of the hon. gentleman. I really cannot comment on them at the present time.

TRANSPORT

NOVA SCOTIA—POSSIBILITY OF SECOND FERRY SERVICE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg): My question is directed to the Minister of Finance who I know is interested in all the problems of the Atlantic provinces. In view of the recommendations of the Margison report, has the Minister of Transport any further statement to make at the present time regarding the possible establishment of a second ferry service between Nova Scotia and the United States?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): There is nothing I can usefully say at the moment or indeed that I can usefully say on orders of the day.

Mr. Crouse: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is there any information regarding a non-profit ferry authority to be set up in Gloucester, Massachusetts, following a project study by Messrs. Caldwell, Tremble and Mitchell of New York for the provision of a second passenger and freight ferry service—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question might be placed on the order paper.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

VANCOUVER, B.C.—ACTIVITY IN MUNICIPAL ELECTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I intended to address this question to the Solicitor General, but in his absence I shall address it to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that Mayor Rathie of Vancouver, British Columbia, said he was informed by

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the R.C.M.P. that Miss Jean Rands, socialist candidate for Vancouver, was a member of a subversive organization, would the Prime Minister inform the house if it is the policy of the present government to allow the R.C.M.P. to be used by big business candidates against their socialist opponents in the Vancouver election for mayor?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question as put cannot be asked on orders of the day. I am not sure whether it can be asked at any time, but if the hon. member feels it is urgent he might ask it on the adjournment debate.

OLD AGE SECURITY

DECISION NOT TO MAIL CHEQUES BEFORE CHRISTMAS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): My question is addressed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I wonder if the minister has had an opportunity to consider and decide on the question I posed to him last Thursday. I asked the minister whether he could make possible the sending out of the December old age security cheques before, rather than after, Christmas.

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, this suggestion has been considered very sympathetically, but the conclusion is that by sending the cheques out at such an early date in December there would be a considerably greater than usual gap between receipts of cheques. Taking into account solely the welfare of pensioners, this suggestion was not felt to be feasible.

Mr. Hales: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As I think this has been done before, and as there will be only a five week period between cheques, which is not unusual, will the minister not reconsider my request?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, my information is that, for the reason I mentioned, this has not been done before. It is not a question of not being sympathetic with the proposal or trying to beat it; it is a question of trying to take into account the best interests of most old age pensioners.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As the minister referred to a gap existing between a mid-December cheque and the end of January cheque, would not the government consider providing a bonus in the January cheque?