

*Inquiries of the Ministry***FINANCE****POSITION OF GOVERNMENT ON INVESTMENT COMPANIES MEASURE**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Prime Minister for his answer, and may I direct my supplementary to the Minister of Finance. In the meantime is the Minister of Finance prepared to make it clear that the government will stand firm by the terms of its investment companies bill, which is now before the other place?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the Investment Companies bill was introduced into the other place intentionally so that members of the other place could conduct hearings in their committee. As a result of these certain changes to the legislation are proposed. These changes are being looked at very carefully and will not weaken the legislation one bit. It will remove some inconvenience and inconsistency in the legislation. Some of the proposed changes are very useful. Of course the government will have a look at the legislation as it is passed by the other place. If it is not in agreement with it, then of course we would refuse to accept the amendments. I should say I was consulted by the Superintendent of Insurance on some of the amendments. He seemed to think they were helpful.

THE BUDGET**TORONTO—INQUIRY AS TO POSSIBLE LEAK**

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): I have a question for the Minister of Finance on a somewhat similar subject. In view of the fact Toronto business firms received detailed comments on the budget early Wednesday morning from Clarkson Gordon & Company, I ask the minister if this is an example of a budget leak or a better mail service?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, with respect to distribution of the budget, we do not rely on the mail service.

Mr. Bell: I don't blame you.

An hon. Member: Neither do a lot of Canadians.

Mr. Benson: The offices of the Bank of Canada across Canada have sealed bundles delivered to them containing copies of the budget, which are available on budget night.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

Some accounting and legal firms pick them up that night and carry out an analysis. I can assure my hon. friend to the best of my knowledge there was no budget leak.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**THEFT OF BONDS**

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): I should like to direct a question to the Solicitor General. Can the minister advise if a posse has been sent out after the four bandits who yesterday relieved the slow moving Post Office of \$100,000 worth of bonds? Can he advise if they have been apprehended and the securities returned?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the Solicitor General consider gathering a posse together and deputizing the hon. member for Hillsborough?

Mr. McIlraith: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

INCOME TAX**RETURN OF REFUNDS**

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Revenue. Can the minister advise the house if the income tax refunds, which are very important to many Canadians, are being returned on schedule or is there some delay or backlog?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Minister of National Revenue): There is no delay as far as we are concerned. I think it has been faster than in any previous year. If there is any special case the hon. member has in mind, I ask him to advise me, as it may be a case where there was a mistake on the return which could cause a delay.

REQUEST FOR TIME EXTENSION TO WESTERN FARMERS

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): My question is for the Minister of National Revenue. In view of the serious cash situation facing the western agricultural economy, will the minister provide extra time for the payment of income tax demands for the agricultural producer and small businesses in rural areas?