

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker, and I wish that some of the provinces who are receiving the money would make sure that the people who are insured get it.

Mr. Hales: A supplementary question. Would the minister advise the House whether the social development tax was imposed for the purpose of paying for medicare?

Mr. Benson: No, Mr. Speaker.

SHIPPING

COMPLETION OF DIGBY-SAINT JOHN FERRY

Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova): Mr. Speaker, you will rejoice at the fact that you have not heard this question for about nine months. May I ask the Minister of Public Works whether he can assure the House that the Digby-Saint John ferry project will be completed on the date scheduled?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, we were afraid at one time that the ship would be ahead of us. There is now some suggestion that we will be ahead of the ship.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

COMPLAINTS RESPECTING "HOURGLASS" PROGRAM

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State. In view of the recent and completely unfair representation made by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation "Hourglass" program of the city of Nelson and its Notre Dame University, may I ask the Secretary of State whether he has investigated the many complaints received about this particular production and, if so, whether a report on the investigation is available.

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, this is the first complaint I have heard against this program, but I take note of the representations of the hon. member and I shall ask the CBC about it.

SPORTS

GRANT TO QUEBEC AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister

Inquiries of the Ministry

of National Health and Welfare, but since we have seen very little of him in the House for quite some time, I will put it to his parliamentary secretary.

Has the Minister received complaints from the Quebec Amateur Hockey Association in connection with the attitude of the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association towards the 3,000 Quebec teams which are receiving a \$9,000 grant compared to \$27,000 obtained by the 4,000 teams of Ontario?

Mr. Speaker: I think that this question could be put on the order paper.

[English]

TAXATION

WHITE PAPER ON REFORM—STATEMENT BY SASKATCHEWAN PREMIER

Mr. Stan Schumacher (Palliser): My question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Will Premier Thatcher's statement that he would have to reconsider being a member of the Liberal party if the white paper on tax reform is proceeded with persuade the minister that fundamental changes, if not complete withdrawal, of this document are now in order?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's question is argumentative.

THE BUDGET

INQUIRY AS TO PROBABLE DATE OF PRESENTATION, TABLING OF PAPERS

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): My question is for the Minister of Finance. Would the minister advise the House on what date he hopes to table the budget papers, and has he yet set the precise date for his budget presentation?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): I hope to table the budget papers next week, but I would not like to be tied down to that. They are presently being prepared, printed and so on. The target date for the budget presentation is March 3, but here again I do not want to be tied down. It might be extended a week or so beyond that date, depending on circumstances.