

Inquiries of the Ministry

and 3466 of *Hansard*. The Chair ruled that there were no grounds for a question of privilege. I think I should bring the attention of the hon. member and all other hon. members to Citation 181 of Beauchesne's *Parliamentary Rules and Procedure*, 4th Edition, which would indicate that a grievance such as that raised by the member cannot be the object of a question of privilege.

I must therefore inform the hon. member that there is no prima facie question of privilege and that I cannot agree with his suggestion to the effect that his motion be introduced immediately. I regretfully do so, because the hon. member has raised an interesting point. However, another way more consistent with Standing Orders should perhaps be found so that the matter he has dealt with be considered by one of the committees of the House.

[English]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

FINANCE, TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Eleventh and twelfth reports of Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs—Mr. Gillespie.

[Editor's Note: For text of above reports, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INFLATION—RENT CONTROL AND PROFESSIONAL FEES—ACTION AT FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether it is the intention of the government at the forthcoming federal-provincial conference to seek action with respect to rent controls and a freeze on fees for professional services? Will this be considered on the provincial or the federal level or on both levels?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): All these questions concerning inflation, raised both on the initiative of the federal government and as a result of recommendations or advice received from the Prices and Incomes Commission, will be discussed by both levels of government, and we will seek to act in a co-operative fashion.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Baldwin: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. If the government is successful in achieving any of the results it desires with respect to the conference and action on the part of the provinces, will such action require legislative approval by Parliament or by the provincial legislatures? If so, and in view of the rather hopeless answer I received from the Minister of Justice the other day—

Mr. McLraith: That is a gratuitous comment.

Mr. Baldwin: —is any consideration being given to drafting legislation?

Mr. Trudeau: It began as a hypothetical question, Mr. Speaker, and remained that way.

INFLATION—CONSULTATIONS WITH PROVINCES ON PROPOSED CONSUMER CREDIT CURBS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance. Has the minister held consultations with his provincial counterparts regarding the proposed curbs on consumer credit and, if so, what was their reaction?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the matter of consumer credit of course has been mentioned by the federal government, as we indicated publicly previously, but no decision has been made in this regard. We have discussed the idea with various interested parties, but no decision has been made by the government.

Mr. McGrath: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister held discussions with the provincial governments on consumer credit curbs?

Mr. Benson: I have held discussions with provincial treasurers on a great many matters, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the principle of regional selectivity apply to any proposals concerning consumer credit, rent controls, and controls on professional fees?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, as I stated, no decision in this regard has been made at all.

[Later:]

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of