

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** This is what we heard this morning, but these were meetings in order that the government could get specific information from the companies, and no more.

**Mr. Lewis:** May I ask the minister whether he is in a position to give the House an assurance that the government will not change the position announced by the Prime Minister the other night?

**Mr. Benson:** The government's policy was announced by the Prime Minister the other evening and we have not changed it.

**Mr. Lewis:** I have a further supplementary question. May I ask the minister whether the government is giving consideration to letting Eldorado buy out Mr. Roman's interest in Denison Mines and thus make sure that not only will this large uranium reserve remain in Canadian hands but that it will be under public ownership?

**Mr. Benson:** Not at the moment.

**Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview):** My question is for the Minister of Finance. Is he considering a foreign takeover tax to stop foreign takeovers in Canada?

**Mr. Benson:** No, Mr. Speaker. As my hon. friend knows, it would not be successful.

**Mr. Gilbert:** It has never been tried.

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance. In view of the government's position regarding the prevention of the sale of Denison Mines to a foreign company, will the government in the future require that any future development of uranium mines in Canada have a majority Canadian ownership.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Benson:** Of course this question has to be considered by the government in light of the policy announced by the Prime Minister.

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** In view of the last question and the minister's answer, will he be applying this principle only to uranium companies or does he intend to apply it to the petroleum industry and all other industries in Canada?

**Mr. Benson:** My hon. friend must remember that the uranium industry is one that has been declared for the general benefit of Canada and is specifically under federal control.

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**Mr. Woolliams:** Following that answer, is the minister suggesting that the other industries I mentioned are not for the benefit of Canada?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the minister rising on a point of order?

**Mr. Benson:** I am rising on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. Of course all industries are for the benefit of Canada, but this particular industry was declared so by this Parliament.

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Is the government planning to issue a comprehensive statement regarding foreign ownership in Canada?

**Mr. Benson:** I have already answered that question.

**Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca):** My supplementary question also is for the Minister of Finance. I wonder whether the answers which he gave to the previous questions indicate a trend and a desire on the part of this government to take over foreign controlled companies?

**Mr. Benson:** No, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is not in order.

[Translation]

**TAXATION**

WHITE PAPER ON REFORM—POSSIBILITY OF WITHDRAWAL

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance.

In view of the increasing opposition of the Canadian people to the white paper on taxation, could the minister inform the House whether he intends to withdraw it?

**Mr. Speaker:** I take the liberty to suggest to the hon. member that questions almost along the same line have been asked a few days ago. However, perhaps the minister can answer the hon. member's question.

[English]

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** I hold parliamentary committees in great respect, and the proposals are before a parliamentary committee. I hope members of my