

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

projects from \$69 to \$109 a month. Could the minister indicate to the House whether an investigation of this matter has been made, and can he announce the results to the House?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, the problem does not come directly under my jurisdiction, but rather under that of the Minister without Portfolio in charge of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. I passed the hon. member's question on to him, and he indicated that he would reply personally in the House. I believe he is not in Ottawa today.

[English]

**PROCEDURE AND ORGANIZATION****AGREEMENT ON TERMS OF REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEE**

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Privy Council. Now that the western supporters of the government have decided to support the proposals of this party for greater freedom of action and participation in voting in the House and less of the mailed first treatment, would the Government House Leader not support the terms of reference to the Committee on Procedure and Organization that we suggested, and bring them forward so that they will be in effect by next session?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, it would appear that the principles of his party to which the hon. member refers relate to the question of whether the hon. member for Halifax or the right hon. member for Prince Albert is leader of that party, and I think that is a question they should solve themselves.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question that I will address to the Prime Minister since the contrite mood of the President of the Privy Council has not carried forward to the question period. Would the Prime Minister make a statement in connection with the alleged resignation of seven ministerial assistants because of the autocratic rule of the Prime Minister? If that is not correct, would the Prime Minister deny the first part of the question? The second part, of course, is undeniable.

[Mr. Barnett.]

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I will gladly look into the matter. Could I have the reference that the hon. member was reading from?

**Mr. Baldwin:** I wrote it myself.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I thought it was a product of your research staff.

**POLLUTION****OIL PIPELINE SPILLAGE NEAR FORT McMURRAY**

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and it relates to pollution in the north. Would the minister investigate the destruction caused in the area of Fort McMurray by an oil pipeline burst spilling a large quantity of oil into the Athabasca River, which leads to Lake Athabasca and hence into the Mackenzie delta?

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, we are investigating this matter and I will be glad to report to the hon. member as soon as I have a report from my department and the National Energy Board.

**Mr. Woolliams:** When the minister is having this situation investigated, would he be prepared to send government experts into the area to examine this problem with the idea of using the experience that may result from this destructive leakage in the pipeline and its effect on the ecology in the north?

**Mr. Greene:** Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to consider that suggestion.

**TAXATION****WHITE PAPER ON REFORM—DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSALS**

**Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Finance. Does the minister still hold to the timetable that the implementation of the tax changes proposed in the white paper must be completed by January 1, 1971?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I have said from the beginning that although that was the target date we were completely flexible about it. We wanted everybody to have the opportunity of being heard and to have ample time to draw good legislation when people have been heard.