

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I will allow the minister to reply to this question if he can do so briefly. However, it is obvious that basically the question as asked by the hon. member is perhaps complex and the type of question which normally calls for an extended statement on motions. Second, I suggest to hon. members that we should not really get into a detailed discussion of a report which, if I understand the proceedings, was referred to a committee of the House a few moments ago. This having been said, perhaps the minister might reply.

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend is following Murphy's law I should like to take the question as notice.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, this happens to be Henderson's law and it is very important that we have some information. May I ask the minister whether or not the government intends to act on the Auditor General's recommendation that these criteria which have been used be incorporated in the motor vehicles tariff order in order that the payments made will be made under that order and not by the very dubious method of paying them through orders in council?

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, Mr. Henderson has many duties and one of them is not writing the law. I will be pleased to take my hon. friend's suggestion into consideration.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister, or any minister who is prepared to answer for the government, this question. Since the Auditor General has raised this matter in successive reports, why has no action been taken and why does the government continue to make these payments, which are now in excess of \$180 million, by order in council rather than in the way set forth by the statutes of this country?

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, as an accountant I would simply like to say that accountants make poor lawyers.

**An hon. Member:** And poor politicians!

[Translation]

## GRAIN

### SUGGESTED DISSOLUTION OF CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

**Mr. Roland Godin (Porineuf):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

## Inquiries of the Ministry

Since the Canadian Wheat Board has demonstrated its inefficiency at the international level, in letting mountains of wheat accumulate, could the Prime Minister tell the House if he is considering the abolition of the Commission in order to encourage free trade between eastern and western Canada?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice. I must admit that I did not hear the question very well.

[English]

## FINANCE

### POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF INTEREST RATES

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Has-tings):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In view of the statement yesterday by the president of the Bank of America, the largest bank in the world, that he is confident that the prime interest rate in the United States will drop by June at the latest, does the information the minister has received from the governor of the Bank of Canada and the chairman of the Economic Council of Canada indicate to him that such an eventuality may also take place in Canada in the near future?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, there has certainly been some easing of interest rates in the United States and in Canada and I am hopeful that, as the effective methods we have followed in fighting inflation are successful, interest rates will ease further.

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I notice the minister has been having some difficulty with communication. I wonder whether he has received any communication on the subject from Senator Lamontagne?

**Mr. Benson:** No, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact, I have not talked to him recently.

[Translation]

## PENITENTIARIES

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL—REQUEST FOR INQUIRY INTO SUICIDES

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Solicitor General.

I would have preferred not to deal with this matter today, because it is a memorable day