

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: This is one of those questions which make an assertion rather than asking a question. I will permit an answer if the minister can give a factual answer to such a question.

Mr. Starr: I did not imply that at all, but evidently the conscience of the hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate bothers him in that respect.

COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT—REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I should like to ask the Minister of Justice whether he will review the proposed amendments in Bill No. C-58, that is the bill relating to the Combines Investigation Act, in order to determine whether the proposed amendments are incomplete; and if so would he withdraw the bill and resubmit it?

Mr. Speaker: Surely the proper time to discuss a matter that is on the order paper is when it is called.

FINANCE

REQUEST FOR AID TO MUNICIPALITIES RESPECTING UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): I should like to ask the Minister of Finance if he can advise the house whether any consideration is being given to the provision of financial aid to municipalities which, after May 15, will have to assume heavily increased commitments for welfare because unemployment seasonal benefits end on that date.

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): I think the hon. member must be aware that provision has been made by parliament, at the request of the present government, for the sharing with the provinces of unemployment assistance on an equal basis, without any of the threshold provisions that limited that kind of aid under the former government. He must be aware also that very extensive provision has been made through the large grants under the Federal-Provincial Tax-Sharing Arrangements Act for the assistance of the provinces and, through them, the municipalities.

Mr. Winch: I have a supplementary question. I think the minister misunderstood me. I am completely aware of the commitments of the federal government and of the 50-50 arrangement between the federal government and provincial governments with regard to

the care of the employable unemployed. But in view of the situation which arises on May 15 may I ask—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have already intervened when the hon. member was asking a supplementary question of a similar character. I fail to see how any good purpose can be served by trying to debate a matter of policy of this kind on orders of the day.

Mr. Winch: I am not debating. I want to ask a question.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry, but I must ask the hon. member to resume his seat.

INDUSTRY

SMALL CARS—INQUIRY AS TO TREASURY BOARD DIRECTIVE RESPECTING GOVERNMENT PURCHASES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Will the minister say whether a directive has been issued by the treasury board or any other government body instructing departments of the Canadian government to buy small cars instead of big ones? I am asking this question because of the serious unemployment problem that confronts the automobile industry.

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Is the minister not going to answer the question?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I said no, sir.

Mr. Speaker: I recognize the hon. member for Burin-Burgeo.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Is the minister not—

Mr. Speaker: I just recognized the hon. member for Burin-Burgeo.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I should like to ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that the minister has said that he is not aware of such a direction, will he not take notice of a statement in today's *Globe and Mail* attributed to the deputy minister and saying that such a direction exists? Will the minister see that the direction is negated at once, because obviously it is at serious variance with the interests of Canadian workers.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Some day, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will ask a question not accompanied by a speech or a harangue, but he has not learned to do so yet. He asked a question a moment ago, and I answered his question.

Mr. Chevrier: You have a lot to learn.