

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Bryce: I should like to thank the minister for his answer, and to congratulate him upon the remarkably fine job he did in five minutes.

OLD AGE PENSIONS

REQUEST FOR COST OF LIVING BONUS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. H. Blackmore (Lethbridge): I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) or some other member of the government, notice of which I have not previously given. Considering the rapid increase in the cost of living since the last budget was presented in 1950, would the government seriously take into consideration a proposal to grant a cost of living bonus to old age pensioners, in an endeavour to restore to them the purchasing power they had a few years ago?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The government can take notice of the question, but I do not think a reply should be given at this time.

PRICE CONTROL

**REFERENCE TO REPORT IN WINNIPEG "FREE PRESS"
OF STATEMENT OF MR. GARSON**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I have sent notice of a question to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott). In his absence I would ask for an answer from the Minister of Justice. My question arises from a recent report in the *Winnipeg Free Press* in which the Minister of Justice is reported to have predicted ruthless remedies to deal with inflationary prices, similar to those used in the second world war. I would ask if this means that the government is considering price controls?

Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the report to which the hon. member refers was a not completely successful attempt on the part of the reporter to condense a longer statement I had made, and does not fully represent my views, which I shall have no hesitation in repeating on the proper occasion during the course of debates in the house.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

**REPORTED PURCHASE OF BUILDING IN LONDON,
ONT., FOR USE OF INCOME TAX DIVISION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. O. White (Middlesex East): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Public Works can answer the question which I asked yesterday, as reported on page 1646 of *Hansard*?

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Hon. Alphonse Fournier (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I read the hon. member's question before coming into the house. First, the hon. member wishes to know if the government will be purchasing a building in London for the use of the income tax division. The answer is yes. On March 21 parliament approved a vote to provide for this purchase. Next the hon. member states that the city of London will lose a certain amount of taxes because of this transaction, and he asks if the government will make provision to compensate the city. The city will be treated with the same generosity as other cities in Canada are treated which have government properties valued at more than four per cent of the total assessment value of the city or town.

The hon. member then went on to make a statement which is not according to the facts. The option to purchase is for \$600,000, and the \$550,000 which the hon. gentleman mentioned was for the building under construction to which we requested an extension to increase the space and on which we got an option of \$600,000. Then the hon. member made another statement which was not correct. The option does not expire after ten years; it expires at the end of this year.

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion that question should have appeared on the order paper. However, the question was allowed to stand and for that reason I have allowed the answer. When questions of this kind are to be asked I would ask hon. members to place them on the order paper.

**EMERGENCY GOLD MINING
ASSISTANCE ACT**

**MODIFICATION OF APPLICATION AS TO LAST
QUARTER OF 1950 AND EXTENSION IN
MODIFIED FORM TO 1951**

Hon. George Prudham (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to amend the Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act to modify its application with reference to the last quarter of the year 1950 and to extend the application of the act in a modified form to the year 1951.

He said: Mr. Speaker, with your permission I should like to make a brief statement.

I hold that a healthy gold industry in Canada means a healthy mining industry as a whole. The search for commercial base metals and strategic minerals can most effectively and economically be carried on with the search for gold. In other words,