

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I want to put a pointed question to the Minister of Finance, who said he received a commitment of some sort from Quebec. Is the minister asking this House and the country to support a system of controls which is to be uniform across the country, or is it to be one which may well vary from province to province, not only in Quebec but in other provinces as well?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman asked me a precise question, and I would want to make certain of the wording of the bill before giving a precise answer. If, indeed, he wanted the answer this morning, he might have given me notice of his intention to ask the question.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: What an excuse.

Mr. Baldwin: You should not have been so glib with your first answer, then.

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POST OFFICE

STRIKE OF INSIDE WORKERS—SUGGESTION PRESIDENT OF TREASURY BOARD TAKE OVER NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board. As the Postmaster General stated that he has in the offer he made to the postal workers exhausted his mandate from Treasury Board, which the union has now rejected, will the President of the Treasury Board agree to take over the negotiations, as the Treasury Board is legally responsible for collective bargaining with all federal public servants?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): No change is necessary, Mr. Speaker. We are quite satisfied with the Postmaster General's performance.

[English]

STRIKE OF INSIDE WORKERS—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON OFFERING FULL COST OF LIVING CLAUSE

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As the government is confident that its anti-inflation program will slow inflation, will the minister consider, in order to facilitate a settlement and resumption of work by postal workers, offering to postal workers a full cost of living and productivity increase for the second year of their contract in order to revive negotiations?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, we feel that offering postal workers the Moisan report was most generous. I feel also it is an extremely adequate offer which would warrant their return to work and provide them with highly satisfactory living conditions.

Oral Questions

[English]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

PROPOSED CONFERENCE WITH PROVINCES ON CRIME AND POLICING—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. As the Solicitor General indicated more than seven months ago in a committee of this House that the government was considering participating in a federal-provincial conference on crime and policing, can the minister tell the House if a date has been set for the conference?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): No, Mr. Speaker. Preliminary discussions have been held with the provinces but, so far, there is no agreement to go ahead with such a conference. On the other hand, at a recent meeting with attorneys general and other provincial ministers we discussed other ways of combating organized crime.

● (1130)

Mr. Lawrence: Would the minister be good enough to tell us whether a formal meeting of that nature would be held before the introduction of the government's peace and security legislation package.

Mr. Allmand: As I mentioned, Mr. Speaker, we discussed some of the peace and security package with the provincial ministers at a recent meeting in Halifax. Next week the Minister of Justice and I will be meeting the great majority of attorneys general at four meetings across the country.

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[Translation]

HOUSING

RATE OF INTEREST ON LOAN TO LOWER MORTGAGE INTEREST RATE

Mr. C.-A. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs.

Could he advise the House whether the five-year loan which is being granted as building incentive to make up the difference for rates 8 per cent and over and which will be added to the mortgage will carry the same rate as the initial mortgage, or whether the minister intends to impose a special rate for the reimbursement of this loan at the end of the five-year period?

[English]

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker. As I am sure the hon. member knows, repayment begins at the end of the five-year period, starting with the sixth year. The rate of interest will be that rate which is applying at that time. I hope, as does the hon. member, that the rate will be much lower.