

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Sharp:** I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. When I was in Calgary the only statement made about taxes was a statement that I and many members of this government have made recently, that to the extent that medicare is implemented taxes will be raised. We have always said that and that continues to be government policy.

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question. In the light of the announcement made by the Minister of Finance today, has the government reached the decision to extend the implementation of medicare beyond the target date, July 1 next year?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** The legislation is still in effect and contains that date.

**Mr. Nielsen:** May I ask a supplementary question of the Prime Minister. Is it the intention of the government to amend the medicare bill before its implementation next July?

**Mr. Pearson:** I dealt with that question, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. H. R. Ballard (Calgary South):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of his acknowledgement this morning that a financial crisis exists in the country, I wonder whether he can announce to the house now any reduction of government expenditures in the current fiscal year on behalf of the federal government?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I deny the implication of a financial crisis. The purpose of these measures is to see that our finances remain sound and that the Canadian dollar continues to have the reputation it has enjoyed for so many years.

**Mr. Ballard:** I would like to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. In view of the events this morning, I wonder whether he does not regret his decision to keep all his cabinet ministers in Ottawa over the week end?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

[Translation]

[Later:]

**Mr. Gaston Clermont (Labelle):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Finance. Since he made his

announcement to the house, has the minister received any information, as suggested by the hon. member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton), about an unfavourable reaction from the investment and bond markets?

[English]

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, the information I have received is that the bond market has improved somewhat.

**Mr. Nasserden:** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Is it a fact that one of the prime considerations compelling the minister's statement today has been the pressure on the value of the Canadian dollar?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Sharp:** No, Mr. Speaker, that is not so.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That is what might be termed a leading question.

**Mr. Ed. Schreyer (Springfield):** My question is for the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister say whether the intention with respect to changes in the government's fiscal policy is to bring about an attempt to reduce in a proportionate way demands on the capital market with respect to—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is asking a question that is much too general. I fail to see how the hon. member can ask such a question during the question period.

[Translation]

**FAMILY ALLOWANCES**

QUEBEC—PAYMENTS FOR INDIAN SCHOOL CHILDREN AT STE-THÉRÈSE DE FORT GEORGE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Could the minister tell us why Indian parents of children attending St. Theresa Catholic school in Fort George are deprived of social and family allowances?

**Mr. Speaker:** I suggest that the member should place this question on the order paper.

**Mr. Laprise:** Mr. Speaker, this is a very urgent question because, according to a communication I received this morning, there is blackmailing in that area, and I would like to know from the minister whether or not the rumour is true.