

Mr. Hellyer: We do not have transoceanic airplanes, Mr. Speaker, but if we did we would consider it.

Mr. Woolliams: May I put the following question to the minister with regard to his suggestion concerning C.P.A.: Is the minister aware that C.P.A. is so choked with the mail of the Postmaster General, and other goods, that they have openly said there is no room for those kinds of goods in their aircraft?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

THE BUDGET

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRESENTATION OF BUDGETARY PROPOSALS

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Finance. Is he in a position now to inform the house whether he intends to present a budget, and if not a budget then an economic survey, and if so, when may we expect him to do so?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): As I stated previously, I intend to make a budget speech of one form or another, and the time for it would be some time toward the end of May or in the early part of June.

INCOME TAX

REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION OF OLD AGE PENSIONERS

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In preparing his budgetary statement, is the minister still considering including in it a provision so that taxation will not continue to be levied on old age pensioners who have only their pensions and the guaranteed income supplement on which to live?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): In the preparation of the budget we consider all submissions which have been made to the government in this regard.

FITNESS AND AMATEUR SPORT ACT

DELAY IN QUEBEC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Gérard Loiselle (Saint-Henri): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In light of the serious accusations made by the Hon. Gabriel Loubier, minister of tourism, fish and game of the province of Quebec, regarding the federal government's reluctance to allow Quebec to enter the federal fitness and amateur sport program, would the Minister of National Health and Welfare explain this delay to the house?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, Mr. Speaker. There has been no reluctance on our part since the inception of the fitness program. We have had agreements with other provinces, and Quebec has chosen not to enter those agreements. Lately, during the last year of the current three year agreement, Quebec has indicated some interest. We are more than happy to have them come in, but some of their suggestions are novel ones and we are carrying out discussions with regard to them. We are prepared to carry them on with Quebec.

I have endeavoured on several occasions to talk to the minister to whom the hon. member referred, but apparently he has not been in a position to reply, other than to send his telegram.

RESEARCH

AUSTERITY MEASURES IN ANIMALS PROGRAM

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to refer to page 6891 of *Hansard* on which appears a question which I asked of the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It reads as follows:

Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the statement that appeared in a leading newspaper to the effect that Canada's reputation in animal research, and even the health of scientists engaged in that field, has been put in jeopardy by the government's austerity measures, would the Minister of National Health and Welfare state what measures are now being taken to correct this terrible situation?

On that date you said, Mr. Speaker, that the minister could probably give the answer in the form of a statement on motions. Therefore I ask that this information be put in the form of a statement on motions tomorrow by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, or by the Minister of Agriculture, so that we are informed of what is going on.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I am not aware of the fact that our research program in this area has been jeopardized as a result of any cut-back in the health resources fund, or whatever fund the hon. member is talking about. As he knows, we have more than doubled the millions of dollars we have already allocated to the research field, so far as medical research is concerned.

Mr. Rynard: It is apparent that the Minister of National Health and Welfare does not understand my question. Perhaps the Minister of Agriculture could make this statement tomorrow on motions.