

years, to the province from this loan fund is discriminatory against the province of Alberta?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** No, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member does not appear to realize that the regulation regarding depreciation to which he refers expires at the end of this month.

**Mr. Woolliams:** I am well aware of what the Minister of Finance has just said. He is merely trying to cover up the situation. I asked him whether he had received any formal protest from Alberta alleging discrimination with reference to this \$4 million. We know what he did to Alberta last year.

**Mr. Benson:** No, Mr. Speaker. In fact, I have not even had a formal protest from the hon. member for Calgary North.

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#### PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION

##### TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND SOME STAFF MEMBERS IN VIEW OF CHANGED ROLE

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** I have a question I should like to direct to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the Prices and Incomes Commission is in future to function as a fact-recording rather than as a price-regulating body, in consequence of which its need for executive direction will be greatly reduced, is it the intention of the government to terminate the employment of the chairman and of his principal staff members in order to be consistent with the oft-repeated admonition of the commission to industry that costs should be kept as low as possible?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** This being the day of the Minister of Finance, I will ask him to reply to that question.

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the commission is to continue as a fact-finding body to examine undue increases—

**An hon. Member:** At great expense to the taxpayers.

**Mr. Benson:** The hon. member is a great expense to the taxpayers. The commission will continue as a fact-finding body. It will present its findings, particularly with respect to price and wage increases, to the government and it will be up to the government and to hon. members to express their opinions on them just as the commission did in the past.

**Mr. Hees:** Mr. Speaker, as the function which the commission has carried out during the past year has been a complete failure and as it is going to be less useful to the Canadian people in the future, will the minister not follow the advice of the commission and cut costs for the good of the Canadian people?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

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

#### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS

##### COMMISSION ON MEMBERS' AMENITIES—INQUIRY AS TO REPORT

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and I do not ask it because of any interest I have in any recommendations in this connection. When will the government be tabling the report of the commission in connection with members' salaries and the like and increases thereto?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the House takes note that the hon. member is not interested in this, but for the benefit of the rest of the members I am empowered to say that the chairman of the commission said he would be prepared to issue his report to the government early next week. As soon as we receive it I propose to table it in the House.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, is the Prime Minister in a position to say whether the report provides that any increase which may be brought into effect shall not be effective until after the next ensuing election?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, the usual practice of the government when it asks for a report of this kind, not a royal commission report, is to receive it, study the recommendations and arrive at a policy before tabling it. But out of respect for Parliament, which the right hon. member knows I esteem greatly—

**Mr. Baldwin:** When did you start?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** When did he commence?

**Mr. Trudeau:**—I thought it wiser in this case, since it deals with a matter which involves equally all opposition members as well as government members, to seize the House and perhaps public opinion with the report before the government dare touch it.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I am pleased to know that the Prime Minister is starting to have some respect for Parliament, even belatedly, but in view of the fact the government does not intend to touch the report before it is presented to the House, has he examined it yet, even though untouched?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I am not psychic and I do not know what is in the report. I have not received it and I am not in a position to indicate the content of it, without having touched it or seen it.

**Mr. Crouse:** Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to the question asked by the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings addressed to the Minister of Finance.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I believe that the hon. member for Joliette wishes to ask a supplementary question.