

hon. member for Calgary North. I think I should say that nothing I said in the House on October 4 in answer to the hon. member's question was intended to be critical of the province of Quebec. Indeed, I do not think my words were open to that construction or interpretation.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This appears to be a debate as to the responsibility of the minister. I suggest both to the minister and to the hon. member that this is not a problem we should try to determine during the question period.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, there is a small point of order here. I am not trying to debate with the minister at all. The Solicitor General stated yesterday, when I asked him a question about a probe into crime which had been suggested by the Prime Minister of Quebec, that he would take the question as notice. The day before the Minister of Justice had made some reference to it.

I think the Minister of Justice, with the greatest respect to him, misunderstood my question. He thought I was suggesting he had contradicted himself. All I want him to do is make a statement on whether the government is prepared to accept the suggestion of the Prime Minister of Quebec that there should be an investigation into crime, which is on the increase in Canada. Now, could I put that question again to the minister? I am sure he will not be argumentative.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps there might be a conference between the two ministers and the hon. member after orders of the day.

[Translation]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

SAINT HYACINTHE, QUE.—CLOSING OF RUBBER PLANT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

What steps does the government intend to take in order to find jobs for the 170 employees of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company in Saint Hyacinthe, who have lost or will lose their jobs by the end of the year, due to the strong competition with countries where salaries are far lower than those paid to Canadian workers?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: I think this question could be taken up again tonight at time of adjournment.

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Speaker, I submit this is a very important matter. I think the government should take steps to correct a situation which is going to make jobless at least 170 heads of family and seriously affect, as a result, many citizens in the town of Saint Hyacinthe.

I think the minister should give us an idea of what the government intends to do.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is asking the minister concerned to give the house an idea of the programs of the government with regard to certain given situations. Such a general answer should be given either on motions or on the adjournment, when a minister has more time and can more easily give the sort of information which the hon. member for Saint Hyacinthe is asking for.

Mr. Ricard: In that case, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister whether he could make a statement on motions tomorrow.

[English]

CANADA PENSION PLAN

COMMUTED VALUE OF BENEFIT SUBJECT TO ESTATE TAX

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In view of the problem created by the fact that the commuted value of a Canada Pension Plan benefit awarded to a widow is subject to estate tax, would the minister consider this matter when preparing his forthcoming budget?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

COMMUNICATIONS

CO-OPERATION WITH FRANCE IN SPACE AND SATELLITE RESEARCH

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is the minister able to advise us whether, at the United Nations, he made specific proposals to the foreign minister of France regarding special measures of co-operation in the field of