

Inquiries of the Ministry

or two ago by the governor of the Bank of Canada before a committee of this house. The banks themselves, as my hon. friend knows, do not determine over-all interest rates in Canada, as was ably expressed by the governor of the Bank of Canada. For me to forecast what interest rates will be in the future is rather impossible because so much depends on what happens in the United States and in Canada, and on whether we succeed in our battle against inflation in this country.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I am not asking the minister to forecast anything and I am not asking for a dissertation on bank rates. I am asking the minister whether he made representations to the chartered banks of Canada and whether he has received any assurance from them that they will attempt to follow the same course the bankers in the United States agreed to follow, namely to hold the line and to use selective lending rather than to raise interest rates.

Mr. Benson: No one in this country would like less to see interest rates increase than I would. The government of Canada is the major borrower in the country and would not want to see interest rates go any higher.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, since the Minister of Finance has chosen to hide behind the fact that a public inquiry is going on by a committee of the house, will the minister undertake to carry out the recommendations of the committee of the house when it reports?

Mr. Benson: I will await with interest the recommendations of the committee of the house. I can assure the Leader of the Opposition I am not trying to hide behind a committee of the house. I simply suggested to the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands, as I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition, that he read the very able evidence given by the governor of the Bank of Canada before that committee.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the minister that not only did I read the evidence of the governor of the Bank of Canada but also the evidence of the minister, and I am still rather confused.

Mr. Benson: On a question of privilege, I should like to point out to the Leader of the Opposition that I have not appeared to date before the committee.

[Mr. Benson.]

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance with regard to the committee that is studying interest rates. Can he give the house any guarantee that the recommendations of that committee will not be written by the house leader?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Translation]

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT**ALLEGED INCONSISTENCY IN APPLICATION OF PENALTY**

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Justice.

Would he tell the house for what considerations Mr. Justice J. A. Archambault's decision has been reversed in the Borg case, when it was a matter of implementing the law enacted by parliament on capital punishment to the effect that any person found guilty of the murder of a police officer or a prison guard must be put to death? Why does the law say one thing and the people responsible for the administration of justice do the contrary?

Mr. Speaker, a death sentence has just been commuted—

Mr. Speaker: Order. It seems to me the hon. member's question is put to the house in the form of an argument and is therefore out of order.

Mr. Latulippe: It is not an argument, Mr. Speaker, it is a matter of justice, a social matter, and justice must follow its course. Justice rather than injustice must prevail. As for me, Mr. Speaker, that represents—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member knows that when the Chair suggests that a question is not in order, he can of course rephrase it differently or, if he so wishes, he can give the Chair notice for its consideration at the time of adjournment. It is always possible to do that. I am sure the hon. member would have the chance at that time to consider the problem.

I am not suggesting to the hon. member that his question is not important or urgent, but I am telling him that in my humble opinion, it is raised under the form of an argument and as such, is out of order.

Mr. Latulippe: At ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.