

Minister of Labour. In view of the glaring omission from the throne speech of any reference to the Gill commission report, can the minister advise the house whether the government is contemplating or planning to implement any or all of that report during this session of parliament?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the answer really to the specific question is yes, but I want to tell my hon. friend that I did state last session that we would want to take action this session in this general field, and that view has not been changed.

FINANCE

REPORTED MINISTERIAL APPROVAL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA BANK

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance in order to clear up a certain fogginess in the public mind. Is the minister correctly reported as giving his blessing to Premier Bennett's proposed bank of British Columbia?

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker.

REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF SALES TAX FROM AUTOMOTIVE EQUIPMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. In view of the brief submitted to the minister by the automotive parts manufacturers association of Canada asking for the removal of the 11 per cent sales tax on jigs, dies and equipment generally, would the minister confirm or deny the report that this tax is to be removed?

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think it is a little early to make budget pronouncements.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask a supplementary question. Did the minister advise any lumbermen in British Columbia recently that if they would just keep quiet they would not have to worry, that there would be changes made in the sales tax involving the removal of the 11 per cent tax?

Mr. Gordon: No, Mr. Speaker, the minister did not give such advice to anyone.

Inquiries of the Ministry

INDUSTRY

CONSULTATION RESPECTING TAKING OVER OF LABATT BREWING COMPANY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. W. Prittie (Burnaby-Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Was the Department of Finance consulted at all in the matter of the takeover of the Labatt Brewing Company, and has the minister any new proposals designed to prevent this type of takeover?

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, neither the department nor the government was consulted, and there is no legislation that would prevent that kind of transaction taking place.

Mr. Prittie: A supplementary question. Can the minister tell the house if the apparently defunct Canada development corporation was designed to prevent this type of takeover?

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, the Canada development corporation was not designed to prevent takeovers. I might add, perhaps to answer another question in advance, that the proposal for the Canada development corporation has been and is under active consideration.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Gordon: The timing and nature of any legislation that may be required will be decided in the light of the report of the royal commission on banking and finance.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Another retreat.

TRENTON, N.S.—REQUEST FOR ORDER FOR RAILWAY CARS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Pictou): I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In view of the serious unemployment situation in Pictou county I wonder whether, further to the correspondence I have had with the minister, the hon. gentleman has yet received a report from the Canadian National Railways with regard to the possibility of a railway car order for the Eastern Car plant in that area?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): I doubt whether there has yet been time for the railway company to give an answer, but I will prod them.

CANADIAN CENTENNIAL

INQUIRY AS TO CAPITAL GRANTS TO PROVINCES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secre-