

THE MINISTRY

FURTHER REFERENCE TO STATEMENT BY TRANSPORT MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Nova Scotia.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Transport. I should like to ask the minister what was the basis for his statement outside the house, when he made a blanket charge of smear against members of this house?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I doubt whether the question as asked by the hon. member for Cape Breton is acceptable. I apologize for calling the wrong name a moment ago. Certainly the hon. member cannot ask questions in this way about statements made outside the house.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order I would appreciate, and I am sure the Minister of Manpower and Immigration would also appreciate, narrowing down Nova Scotia to Cape Breton and then to Cape Breton-East Richmond. I do not say this in a facetious way.

I should like to ask the Prime Minister if he would care to enunciate the government's position with regard to the code of ethics originally introduced into the house by the former prime minister.

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The question is very general. I have no particular—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question is rather general. If the Prime Minister wishes to make this kind of a statement it should be made on motions.

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Continuing on the point of order, Mr. Speaker, I think we are entitled to ask, in view of recent developments, whether this code of ethics is still in effect. It was brought in by a former prime minister, and we want to know whether it is government policy today and whether the Prime Minister has investigated recent developments to see whether they come under that code of ethics.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is attempting to ask a question which the Chair could not accept yesterday. I do not think he would want to do indirectly what has been ruled out of order directly.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Does it not follow that when a minister of the crown makes remarks outside the house which reflect on all members of this house, this constitutes a question of privilege? If the Minister of Transport or any other minister has the intestinal fortitude to name names it could be cleared up.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

SASKATCHEWAN—PROVISION OF MEDICAL CARE FOR INDIANS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question which I should like to direct to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Has the minister received a communication from the Saskatchewan Medical Association requesting immediate action to ensure adequate medical care for Saskatchewan Indians, and warning that a failure to act may force doctors to leave areas which have a large Indian population and completely deprive some Saskatchewan Indians of medical service.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I should like to take the question as notice.

Mr. Southam: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. When the minister takes the question as notice will he take action to meet the emergency in this province which has the highest ratio of Indian population in Canada?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I do not think the supplementary question is acceptable.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

AGREEMENTS RESPECTING COLLECTION AND PAYMENT OF TAXES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): This question is directed to the Minister of Finance. At the meeting which I believe is to take place on Monday with provincial ministers of finance and provincial treasurers, is it the intention of the government of Canada to propose new agreements regarding the collection of taxes and payment of taxes that have been collected, or to simply extend the existing agreements?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): As my hon. friend knows, the tax collection agreements run out at the end of December. We would be willing to continue with the tax