

Dr. John Young some time ago, but I will make inquiries as to its appropriateness for tabling.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, because it was of such importance I am sure it came before the cabinet. Did the researchers find that the government's rapid escalation of spending, at an average annual rate of 14 per cent between 1965 and 1970, was the principal cause of inflation during that period rather than wage increases?

**Mr. Drury:** Mr. Speaker, as a member of the cabinet I am still unaware of this report, so I do not know what it said.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** That speaks very badly of a cabinet that does not know what is going on in connection with inflation. Would the minister look into this now because the House would like to know, the Prime Minister having stated in December, 1970, that inflation was licked?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I believe the hon. member for Regina East has a supplementary to the previous question. Perhaps we might try to have a few supplementaries and then go to the next questioner.

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#### REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

##### INCENTIVE GRANTS—ALLEGED MISUSE BY CERTAIN COMPANIES—SUGGESTED REVIEW OF DESIGNATED REGIONS AND SPECIAL AREA PROGRAMS

**Mr. John Burton (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the startling findings of Dr. Springate, which were made as the result of a study of specific cases involving 18 out of 25 large companies in receipt of grants, could the minister indicate whether he is going to undertake an overhaul of the designated regions and the special area programs when these come up for renewal in the very near future?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I can hardly see the relation between the first and second parts of the question but I think that the second one is really the root of the matter. Now, in the very near future, I will make a statement in the House on the designated and special areas.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. members will have noted that there are a few supplementaries sought on this subject. We have to make an attempt to move on. For the moment the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville and then the hon. member for Lachine.

##### INCENTIVE GRANTS—ALLEGED MISUSE BY CERTAIN COMPANIES—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION BY NON-PARTISAN BODY

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the seriousness of the charges made yesterday in the committee by Dr.

#### Inquiries of the Ministry

Springate, would the minister undertake to appoint a non-partisan committee or authority to investigate these charges in order to see what is really happening?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I have great respect for Dr. Springate's academic skill. He made a study on my department and I think this can be very useful. He refused himself to identify any company or person he interviewed; he did not examine the financial statement of any company or any document on which our decisions are based. Therefore I regard his study as a serious one—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I regret having to interrupt the hon. minister but—

[English]

Obviously this is debate. I think we should try to move on to the next question. I will recognize first the hon. member for Lachine and then the hon. member for Peace River.

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#### INDIAN AFFAIRS

##### SUGGESTED REQUEST TO QUEBEC PREMIER THAT INDIANS AND ESKIMOS OF JAMES BAY AREA BE GIVEN VOTE PROVINCIALY

**Mr. Raymond Rock (Lachine):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in regard to his meeting with Premier Bourassa. Would he ask the Premier of Quebec to allow Indians and Eskimos in the James Bay area to vote provincially in the future? They do not have this franchise at present.

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I am glad to inform the hon. member that the right to vote was granted to the Indians and Eskimos in Quebec for the last elections, before 1970.

[English]

**Mr. Rock:** Mr. Speaker, I understand they have not even a constituency in that area at present.

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

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#### IMMIGRATION

##### REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON CIRCUMSTANCES OF ADMISSION OF PERSHING GERVAIS TO CANADA

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister or, rather, for the Prime Minister who is just entering the chamber. I knew the right hon. gentleman could not resist me. Would the Prime Minister or a member of his government make a statement on motions tomorrow or before the end of this week regarding the case of Pershing Gervais, alias Paul