

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please. Is the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre rising on a point of order?

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Yes, I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. May I point out that I opened my remarks by saying that I was assessing no blame. I was asking the government house leader if he would enter into discussions to see whether something could be done jointly and co-operatively to deal with this backlog.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall the remaining notices of motions stand?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD****THE CANADIAN ECONOMY****PRICES AND INCOMES GUIDELINES TO COMBAT INFLATION**

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance, who no doubt is preparing a budget speech. In view of statements contained in his budget papers of yesterday emphasizing the continuing problem of inflation, will the government as an interim measure reconsider its refusal to seek the acceptance of price and income guidelines throughout the economy in order to fight inflation?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I am afraid my hon. friend will have to wait until next Tuesday to hear my proposals about the particular problem he mentioned.

**Mr. Stanfield:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. It is because I fear what the minister may say next Tuesday that I am asking whether he or the government will consider a policy such as I have suggested, as an alternative to fighting inflation by the creation of unemployment?

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, I hope in the fight against inflation my hon. friends opposite will stop asking the government to make additional expenditures.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Finance whether the Prime Minister was speaking without his approval when he indicated in the Atlantic provinces

[Mr. Lewis.]

that the government would increase expenditures in areas of slow growth in order to offset the effects of other anti-inflationary programs it had?

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please. I think we are now embarked upon a debate. Perhaps I could recognize the hon. member for Wellington, who has a supplementary.

**Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance. Since the government spent \$950 million more for goods and services last year and since 83 per cent of these taxpayers' dollars went to pay increased costs brought about by inflation, will the minister advise the house how he proposes to combat this situation?

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, I think my hon. friend again will have to wait, as will other people, until next Tuesday.

If, even at the risk of being out of order, I might answer the question asked just prior to that asked by the hon. member, I wish to say that the Prime Minister does not have to ask me for permission to speak, or for permission to advocate spending more money anywhere in Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****PASSPORTS—CONFUSION THROUGH LOSS OF APPLICATIONS—RELAXATION OF BRITISH AND FRENCH REQUIREMENTS**

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs about confusion in the passport office. Because of this confusion many members or their secretaries have to spend hours in the passport office trying to find applications which have been lost. Since the fault does not lie with the administrative staff, which is making valiant efforts to deal with the situation, and since the problem has been brought about by changes in policy which have increased the volume of applications, is the minister prepared to allow that office to revert to previous procedures? Under those procedures those who hold passports could have them renewed, without making fresh application. Perhaps this might be done on a temporary basis until the peak of the tourist