

*Inquiries of the Ministry*ALLEGED MIS-SPENDING OF FUNDS—GOVERNMENT
POLICY ON ELECTION EXPENSES

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): I have a supplementary question for the right hon. Prime Minister. In light of what has been revealed, I wonder if he is now prepared to comment and declare policy with regard to the Barbeau commission recommendations on election expenses which might clear up all this misunderstanding?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is making an allegation at this time and the question cannot be accepted by the Chair. The Chair is prepared to recognize all supplementaries.

ALLEGED STATEMENT BY MINISTER REGARDING ROLE
OF OTHER MINISTERS IN PARTY ORGANIZATION

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): My supplementary is also for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion and is in regard to a possible conflict of interest. The minister stated that the Minister of National Revenue and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce are in the same position as he with regard to their party organizations, as party organizers. Is the minister going to explain what these—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt whether we should pursue this line of questioning. I would think a majority of hon. members might feel this type of question is not in order.

Mr. Yewchuk: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I was a little mixed up.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Yewchuk: I simply wanted to ask the minister to clarify the position that these various ministers hold in the party in the interests of the public.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will appreciate, as I was suggesting a moment ago, that this is hardly the kind of question which can be answered during the question period—perhaps by way of a statement on motions but hardly by way of an answer during the question period.

Mr. McCleave: Mr. Speaker, I think I have a question of privilege. I can state it briefly and you can determine whether or not I have. My understanding is that the minister was asked twice in clear language to name the people who are advising, at least, his department on the grants made under the DREE program. We do not have the names and Your Honour has suggested that to pursue this matter would be debate. May I respectfully suggest to Your Honour that one of the purposes of our being here as an opposition is to check administration policies. Another purpose is the examination of administrative follies.

• (2:40 p.m.)

Mr. Gibson: Who will check the opposition?

Mr. McCleave: I must defer to my hon. friend from Hamilton-Wentworth, and say again that I love him. The

[Mr. Speaker.]

other day, however, his own House leader did not care a hoot for him.

One of our purposes in being here, surely, is to check into administrative spending and place policies under some kind of examination. I think by his refusal to answer the question the minister has established that we, *prima facie*, have a legitimate question of privilege to raise against the minister, and I so raise it.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is a very distinguished member of the bar and a very distinguished member of this House, yet I would hesitate to agree with him. There are many precedents to indicate that hon. members cannot raise by way of question of privilege a minister's failure to reply to a question, a minister's refusal to reply to a question, or the reply of a minister which is not entirely to the satisfaction or not at all to the satisfaction of the hon. member who asked the question. I suggest with great respect to the hon. member and to the House that this is not a matter that can be raised by way of question of privilege.

AMOUNT LOST BY BANKRUPTCIES OF FIRMS IN QUEBEC

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion could inform us whether the \$500,000, which he referred to as having been lost through bankruptcies and which he said was not a bad track record, was the total amount lost through bankruptcies, or are other moneys involved?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I could check this, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McGrath: The minister was pretty sure about that on television yesterday. He is not half so smart in the House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. McGrath: Why does the minister not say inside the House what he said outside the House?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): I referred to about \$500,000.

Mr. McGrath: The minister suggested that there were other bankruptcies. Why does he not make a statement in the House and be the sort of minister that he is supposed to be?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair is about to recognize the hon. member for Huron. I think, after that, hon. members will see that everyone has had the opportunity to ask a supplementary, and that we should go to the next subject.

DESIGNATED AREAS—REASON FOR DESIGNATION OF
MONTREAL BUT NOT AREAS IN WESTERN ONTARIO

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister why it is that the city of Montreal is a designated area and slow growth areas in western Ontario are not?