

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Hees:** Is the reason for the delay that the Vatican is showing the same kind of enthusiasm to being recognized by Canada as Red China is at the present time?

**COMBINES**

## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN C.N.-C.P. TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND COMPUTER SCIENCES CANADA LIMITED

**Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs whether he and his department are considering an investigation in respect of the relationship between C.N.-C.P. Telecommunications and Computer Sciences Canada Limited to ascertain whether it is in the nature of a monopoly and whether continued development may not be in the best interests of the Canadian public?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest that the hon. member is inviting a very general statement which normally should be made on motions. I will not suggest to the hon. member that his question be placed on the order paper because this would show a lack of confidence in respect of what may happen in the next few days. But I do not think the question can be asked at this time.

**FINANCE**

## INCREASE IN FINANCE COMPANY INTEREST RATES—EXTENSION OF FEDERAL JURISDICTION

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Yesterday the minister said he was pleased that the banks had so far resisted any temptation to raise interest rates. Three of the major finance companies yesterday raised their interest rates, which may have an effect upon the decision of the banks. Has the minister had conversation with the near-banks with respect to holding interest rates at their present level, as he has with the chartered banks?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** No, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister intend to hold conversations with the major finance companies in view of the fact that if they continue to raise interest rates it will create problems for the minister in holding the level of interest rates generally?

[Mr. Trudeau.]

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, I hope that lenders will contain their interest rates as much as possible. My hon. friend knows there is a difference in the relationship between the government of Canada and the banks, and the government of Canada and finance companies which may be incorporated provincially or federally.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a final supplementary question? I am, of course, aware of the situation the minister has outlined. In view of the fact that the government refused to implement the recommendation of the Porter Commission to bring near-banks under the control of the Bank Act, is the minister prepared to announce to the finance companies that he will, if necessary, implement the recommendation of the Porter Commission which would bring near-banks under federal jurisdiction?

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Speaker, this would of course be a major policy decision which would be made only after consultation with my colleagues and announced in the normal fashion.

## CHARTERED BANKS—ASSURANCE RESPECTING INTEREST RATES

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister of Finance whether, in view of his communications with the banks through the Governor of the Bank of Canada, he has received any assurance from the banks that they will avoid further increasing their interest rates?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Not really, Mr. Speaker. All I see are the actions that have been taken. As my hon. friend knows, I am not in continuous contact with the banks; my contact with them is generally through the Governor of the Bank of Canada.

**NATIONAL DEFENCE**

## SUMMERSIDE, P.E.I.—REPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING POSSIBLE CLOSING OF BASE—ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED

**Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Defence. Can he assure the house that no irrevocable decision will be taken regarding the future of the Canadian forces base at Summerside until the submissions of a delegation from Prince Edward Island, led by the premier of that province, are received on Monday, I believe