

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Baldwin: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I ask the Prime Minister the simple question: is the government now contemplating this move?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Finance has said many times, we are contemplating all possible moves which might help to contain inflation. We have studied this measure as well as the one suggested by the leader of the New Democratic Party and many, many others, but the time and place for presenting such moves are announced by the government at these meetings or to the House of Commons.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member for Témiscamingue wish to ask a supplementary question?

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Prime Minister.

[English]

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is rising on a question of privilege—

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): On Tuesday last—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member might allow me to complete my sentence.

[Translation]

I wanted to point out to the hon. member for Témiscamingue that I must interrupt him, since the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands is rising on a question of privilege.

[English]

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday last, as recorded at page 7596 of *Hansard*, I put this question to the Minister of Finance:

May I ask the minister if it is his intention to ask the provincial governments to co-operate with the federal government in imposing restraint on wages and salaries, and if it is the government's intention in that case to cover the entire field of other incomes, particularly profits, interest, rents and prices?

The minister's reply was:

Mr. Speaker, I had not thought of making that request of the provinces.

In view of the fact that statements are now emanating allegedly from persons in high office in the government, as reported in last night's issue of the *Toronto Star*, to the effect that the Minister of Finance is going to place such proposals before the provincial Ministers of Finance, I suggest that this House has a right to know whether the minister's statement on Tuesday was a correct statement of the fact or whether these reports allegedly emanating from his department are correct reports? The Prime Minister's statement today certainly does not shed any light—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member raises this point as a question of privilege. The Chair has to decide whether there is a prima facie case of privilege and whether this matter should be pursued further. The hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands might have a supplementary question or a point of order but I doubt very much if his privileges as a Member of Parliament and his rights in the discharge of his duties have been affected in these proceedings in such a way that there would be a legitimate question of privilege. Perhaps the hon. member has a supplementary question. I would be pleased to recognize him in just a moment. Perhaps I might be allowed to recognize the hon. member for Témiscamingue and then I will return to the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

[Translation]

TAXATION

WHITE PAPER ON REFORM—POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON INVESTMENT IN QUEBEC

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Did he read the statements made yesterday by Mr. David Rockefeller, president of the Chase Manhattan Bank, the most powerful financial institution in the world, who said that the white paper on taxation is more susceptible to prevent investments in Quebec than separatism itself?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I saw the headline just before coming into the House today. That is all I know.

Mr. Caouette: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Could the Prime Minister comment on the statement tomorrow if he has the time to read it today?