

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Digby-Annapolis-Kings):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the reply the minister gave a moment ago and in view of his well known fondness for priorities, can the hon. gentleman tell the house where he puts the balance as between a capital crisis and capital punishment?

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the hon. member for Chapeau (Mr. Laprise) wish to ask a supplementary question?

**Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

[*English*]

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Minister of Finance whether he will be proposing measures to restrain the demands of the private sector of the economy on the money market along with the restraints on the public sector which he has indicated.

**Mr. Sharp:** Perhaps I can answer that question by saying that one of the main objectives both of the statement I made yesterday and of the message I shall be bringing down is to relieve the pressure on interest rates so that home owners can get their money more cheaply.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance a supplementary question. Could he tell us if Canada's stupid financial difficulties might be due to the Quebec premier's visit to New York financial circles?

[*English*]

**Hon. George Hees (Northumberland):** May I ask a supplementary question of the Prime Minister. Does he consider that the continuation of a debate on a subject decided upon 18 months ago is more important than continuing today to discuss the most important financial questions that have faced the country for some time?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. This is the same, in different terms, as another question which was asked a moment ago.

**Mr. Hees:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct another question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact it is becoming more and more evident that the demand for parity between United States wages and

[Mr. Sharp.]

Canadian wages is going to extend to far more industries than the automotive industry and that such parity will require a great deal more productivity in this country than is the case at the present time, could the minister disclose next week what steps the government intends to take to increase productivity in this country?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I share the concern of the hon. member about the trend in the productivity of this country. The government has a great many measures directed to this end. The hon. gentleman is always emphasizing tax incentives. I do not consider they would be the best way. I have the problem under constant review, as have other ministers of the government.

**Mr. Hees:** I am quite happy to have the minister outline any additional suggestions the government may have to achieve the end we all have in mind, increasing productivity, and that is why I have asked the minister to make a statement next week.

**Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Does the statement made by the Minister of Finance today represent the considered and unanimous opinion of the cabinet as a whole?

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

**Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of Finance. In view of the situation described today by him will he seek the agreement of the provinces at the forthcoming meeting of provincial finance ministers to establish planning priorities in the economic and social fields?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I am glad of this question because it enables me to answer another question. We will not be discussing tax changes with the provinces. That is the prerogative of this house and I never, under any circumstances, inform anybody of the tax proposals I am going to lay before the house. We will certainly be discussing, however, the question of spending priorities.

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the last statement by the Minister of Finance I would ask him to take the house into his confidence now and tell us whether he did not, last week in the city of Calgary, announce that taxes would be increased, and does he really feel that was proper for a man in his position?