

Inquiries of the Ministry

the Standing Committee on Election Expenses has been before the House for some eight months, I would ask whether the Prime Minister can tell the House now if it is the intention of the government to bring in legislation to deal with the matter of election expenses in time for it to be implemented before the next election.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I am told, Mr. Speaker, that would be an impossibility. Even if the legislation were passed now, unless we were going to have an election very late indeed, or even beyond the constitutionally permitted time, it would be difficult to have legislation effective in time for that election.

Mr. Benjamin: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the right hon. Prime Minister, in view of the fact that we have had an indication from election officials that it would only require two or at the most three months to fully implement legislation dealing with parliamentary election expenses, and in view of the fact that a prominent official of the Liberal party has stated that 95 major Canadian corporations are being solicited for funds for the Liberal party, can he have the legislation brought forward into this chamber so that it may be effective by election time?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is obviously argument and the question is not in order. The hon. member for Joliette.

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[Translation]

FAMILY INCOME SECURITY**FAMILY ALLOWANCES—STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH QUEBEC**

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, in view of the absence of the Minister of National Health and Welfare, I would like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

Would the hon. gentleman indicate to the House whether the negotiations between the government of Quebec and Ottawa regarding family allowances have come to an end and whether the federal government is prepared to give in to the demands of Mr. Castonguay?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the discussions are still proceeding. Meetings have taken place between officials and even between Mr. Bourassa and myself. We have discussed the problem. The federal government's position is unchanged since my last statement to the House on the subject. We are prepared to consider a set of proposals aiming at improving the administration of the various federal and provincial programs.

FAMILY ALLOWANCES—EXERCISE OF LEGISLATIVE POWER BY QUEBEC

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Quebec government seems to emphasize one condition—that it be granted legislative power in the matter of family allowances—would the Prime Minister indicate whether he approves that request from Quebec?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if, as I understand the question, it concerns legislative power, the Quebec government has of course every power to pay whatever family allowances it wants to pay, in the same manner as does the federal government, since in effect we have been paying such allowances for over 25 years. So if the Quebec government wants to continue its system of payments and increase its payments to the citizens of that province, the federal government cannot oppose this in any way.

The problem is rather to know whether the two systems can be integrated, and I have already told Premier Bourassa that I agreed in principle. It is now a matter of establishing administrative terms which both governments will find satisfactory.

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[English]

ELECTIONS**POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT OF TWENTY LIBERAL MEMBERS FROM QUEBEC AS CANDIDATES**

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question supplementary to that posed by the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre to the Prime Minister. Would the Prime Minister bring the House up to date regarding the situation surrounding the 20 Liberal members from Quebec whom he is not going to allow to run and is going to replace with more suitable candidates in the next election?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question is not in order. The hon. member for Calgary North.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member should state the question quickly because we have just about run out of time.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege is that I believe every member of this House has a right to take an interest in the welfare of his fellow members of this House, and I want to make sure that they are generously treated when they are kicked out by the Prime Minister.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Calgary North.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I would—

Mr. Speaker: If the Prime Minister rises on a question of privilege I would recognize him, but obviously that was not a legitimate question of privilege which was proposed by the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings and that is why I interrupted him.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, it does affect all hon. members that we do intend to kick out a lot of hon. members, most of whom are sitting in the opposition.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: Would you like to take a bet on Prince Edward-Hastings? Put your money on the line—put up or shut up. A thousand dollars on Prince Edward-Hastings—