

tled to federal sharing. However, there is one major difficulty here, and I am sure the hon. member recognizes it. If the federal government should take action of this kind we could be impairing the health and welfare of a lot of other people in British Columbia who are now receiving payments. If we cut back our share they may also be denied help, and that would be unfortunate.

Mrs. MacInnis: A supplementary question. Has the minister set a deadline, and has the British Columbia minister been warned that federal funds will be cut off should he not meet that deadline?

Mr. Munro: No deadline has yet been set because I am not personally satisfied, from the investigation of the cases we have before us, that there has been real deprivation that would constitute a blatant breach of the Canada Assistance Plan provisions. Until I am satisfied of that, I do not think we are confronted with a problem of setting deadlines.

CORNWALL—REFUSAL OF BENEFITS TO WORKERS ON STRIKE

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. A couple of weeks ago I drew the minister's attention to a similar incident in Cornwall where those involved in a labour dispute were not only being denied welfare but even food vouchers, and I gave the minister a copy of a telegram I had received. I wonder whether he has had an opportunity to ascertain whether or not the situation has been corrected, and what action he is taking?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I did look into that matter. It was reported to the provincial agencies and I believe that situation has corrected itself. I would advise the leader of the NDP that I do not believe the welfare agencies in Ontario have adopted a practice similar to the one referred to by the previous speaker so far as B.C. is concerned.

PRIVILEGE

APOLOGIES TO MINISTER FOR COMMENTS CONCERNING TABLING OF LEDAIN COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I owe the Minister of National

Inquiries of the Ministry

Health and Welfare an apology for comments I made from my seat. I have been buffaloed by the electronic highway. I thought I heard the minister say on the CBC this morning that the LeDain Commission report would not be tabled until the fall. I understand that the CBC has apologized to the minister, and I can do no less.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Mr. Oza Tétrault (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I have a question—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I apologize for having to interrupt the hon. member for Villeneuve, but another hon. member is asking to be recognized on a question of privilege.

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings on a question of privilege.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, in view of what the hon. member for Fundy-Royal has just said, I must say that I have not been informed by the CBC just exactly what the transcript reveals but naturally, if the transcript does not prove that the minister said what I said he said, I would certainly apologize to him. It was my firm conviction that he had, but if he did not say it—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

An hon. Member: You must not have heard it, George.

Mr. Hees: I heard it, but if he says he did not say it, I apologize.

Mr. Munro: I wish to thank—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[*Translation*]

HOUSING

DECREASE IN STARTS—MEASURES TO PROMOTE CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Oza Tétrault (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the minister in charge of housing.

According to the figures released by the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, there has been a decrease of 40 per cent in the construction of dwellings during the first four months of 1970. Can the minister indi-