

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, without accepting the hypothesis of the question, I believe the hon. member has been informed—if not, he is now informed—that as a result of his question an investigation is being conducted to ensure that the Bankruptcy Act and all its provisions have been observed.

Mr. Broadbent: No, I had not been informed, but to clarify what the minister has just said can he inform the House whether or not the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are involved in this investigation?

Mr. Basford: That would be quite improper, Mr. Speaker.

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YOUTH

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—EXTENSION OF FINAL DATE FOR APPROVAL OF PROJECTS

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State I will direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. I believe that May 15 was the cut-off date for approved projects under the Opportunities for Youth program. In view of the list that was circulated today which was seemingly inconclusive, are there more projects to be announced or is the date being extended still further?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will refer the question to the Secretary of State and have an answer tomorrow.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

ALLEGED REFLECTION ON CANADIAN ARMED FORCES BY PRIME MINISTER

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, may I put a question supplementary to the one I attempted to ask previously or perhaps rephrase it. Again I address my question to the Acting Prime Minister or the Minister of National Defence. A very clear implication was left by the Prime Minister on the television program, "Weekend", prior to his departure—it was a sort of state of the union address—that the Canadian Armed Forces could not be trusted in the streets of Montreal without the over-all blanket of the War Measures Act. I wonder whether the Minister of National Defence would make some comment so as not to leave the Canadian Armed Forces at the level of assumed professionalism on a par with United States national guard units?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not think that any reasonable non-partisan person would draw any such inference from what the Prime Minister said, and if the hon. gentleman is one of the exceptions to the rule I can put his mind at rest.

Inquiries of the Ministry

PUBLIC SERVICE

ROLE OF TREASURY BOARD IN INVESTIGATING USE OF DELEGATED HIRING AUTHORITY

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Treasury Board. On May 7 I asked him in the House whether he would inquire into the basis of the concern expressed by the Public Service Commission over the manner in which delegated hiring authority is being used and the minister assured me that Treasury Board was investigating the matter. As the delegation of staffing authority is the sole prerogative of the independent Public Service Commission, as specified in the Public Service Employment Act, why is Treasury Board investigating this matter since it is not responsible for the administration of the Public Service Employment Act?

Mr. Speaker: I must indicate to the hon. member that in my opinion this is perhaps an argument more than a question. However, the minister might want to reply briefly and might be allowed to do so.

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has indeed made a very good point. Responsibility for staffing and appointments to the Public Service lies with the Public Service Commission. However, Treasury Board is responsible for over-all personnel policy within the government service, and it is in this respect that Treasury Board is looking into the matter, merely to ensure that in fact the over-all policy is sound. But as the hon. member pointed out, the specific question is the responsibility of the Public Service Commission.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

REVIEW OF PERMISSIBLE INCOME CEILINGS AND ANCILLARY BENEFIT REGULATIONS UNDER WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCE ACT

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the fact that in a number of provinces the ceilings on income that may be obtained under social assistance legislation are higher than the ceilings on permissible income under the War Veterans Allowance Act, will the government review the matter of these ceilings so that as far as possible veterans might be provided for under their own legislation?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs): This is the case, Mr. Speaker, especially in British Columbia. At the present time we are reviewing the situation. As the hon. member knows, we increased war veterans allowances by 15 per cent in April. British Columbia, as the hon. member stated, has also increased its social assistance, so we are reviewing the situation.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the department also review the regulations under the War Veterans Allow-