

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I do not think Ottawa is under any disadvantage with respect to what is to be done in Hull. I think there is a strong imbalance between the two cities. We are going to develop Ottawa as much as we can at the same time as we develop Hull.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**AID TO VICTIMS OF CRIME—INCLUSION OF YUKON AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. Since most provinces of Canada have passed legislation making provision for compensation to victims of criminal violence, and since the minister has undertaken to discuss this matter with attorneys-general in August, will he consider drafting a model bill to cover the Yukon and Northwest Territories so that the bill can form the basis of discussion with regard to this problem in those areas?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Well, Mr. Speaker, I would consider that, but I am not too sure that it does not already lie within the power of the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories do to so under ordinance.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS**KENNEDY ROUND—PASSING ON OF LOWER PRICES TO CONSUMERS**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question arises from an answer given earlier by the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. His answer was to the effect that any reductions in the prices of commodities which enter Canada as a result of our adoption now of certain Kennedy round tariff reductions will be passed on to the consumer. In other words, the consumer will benefit. Will he tell the house how so novel and unusual a plan can actually be carried into effect? What authority has the federal government to so direct? Will he tell us whether the provinces have been consulted in this connection? Are they willing to co-operate in order to ensure that the consumer shall benefit?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the action announced on Tuesday, by my colleague the Minister of Finance is to

increase competitive pressures among a certain range of goods in Canada. As I said previously, I will be making a more definitive statement shortly. We want to be sure that these competitive forces are in fact at work. The situation it seems to me is not much different from that which prevailed when the former Minister of Finance removed the sales tax from pharmaceutical drugs. We set up machinery to be sure that any decrease in sales tax at the manufacturing level would be passed on.

Mr. Diefenbaker: May I ask the minister, Mr. Speaker, if the government intends to bring in legislation saying that where any company importing goods into Canada does not pass on price reductions consequent on the removal of the tariff, action will be taken against such person or company?

Mr. Basford: Well, Mr. Speaker, I will be saying more on this subject later. Whether legislation is to be introduced at some future time will depend on actions in the private sector.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The government has not such power.

PUBLIC WORKS**CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT OF PROJECTS OUTSIDE OTTAWA**

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works. Has there been any cancellation or postponement of any Public Works projects outside the Ottawa area, but included in the original estimates tabled for 1969-70? If so, would the minister be prepared to tell us what these are?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the entire field of projects for the department is under review at the present time and I would not be prepared today to indicate where we will stop or start.

Mr. Burton: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can hon. members of the house take it, then, that the government in fact has given consideration to the cancellation or postponement of some Public Works projects?

Mr. Speaker: Order please. The question as asked is argumentative.