

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Greene: We have considered that, but have discovered from research not only carried out in this country but in other countries where similar approaches have actually been tried, a strange manifestation of the female of our species, that she would be likely to buy detergents with the highest phosphate content which washed the old man's clothes cleaner.

Mr. Fairweather: His shirts may be white but his lakes are polluted.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**INFLATION—PROPOSALS BY MINISTERS TO PROVINCIAL PREMIERS**

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance. Can he inform the House what specific proposals for inflation control the four cabinet ministers are now presently carrying to the provincial governments?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): The general discussions with the premiers of the provinces are taking place prior to the meeting merely to outline some of our thoughts in this direction.

Mr. Ritchie: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the government intend to introduce selective or regional anti-inflationary measures in the near future which would alleviate some of the worst effects on the depressed regions of the country?

Mr. Benson: If the government intended to do any such thing it would be our policy to announce it to the House in the ordinary manner.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS**INCREASE IN PRICE OF MILK—INQUIRY AS TO ACTION**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask the minister whether it has been brought to his attention that while he was away a firm in Toronto announced an increase in the price of milk contrary to the expressed wishes of the minister before he left. Does the minister propose to do anything about this himself in order to keep the Prices and Incomes Commission in a position where it can have a satisfactory conference?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): I understand that while I was away the Minister [Mr. Howard (Okanagan Boundary).]

ter of Consumer and Corporate Affairs looked into this matter and made a statement in that regard, but I am not sure of that.

Mr. Stanfield: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister of Finance consult the record and the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs to find out whether the latter really did anything because, according to his statement in the House, he was not going to do anything about it at all?

Mr. Benson: I am always pleased to consult even with the Leader of the Opposition.

THE BUDGET**INQUIRY AS TO PROBABLE DATE OF PRESENTATION**

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In view of the concern expressed across the country about the white paper on tax reform, can the minister tell us when he hopes to bring down his budget so that we may view it in light of the white paper controversy?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Very early in March.

FINANCE**SUGGESTED REMOVAL OF SALES TAX ON MARGARINE**

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Having in mind his concern about inflated prices in the country, would he say what consideration is being given to the representations of consumer groups urging the removal of the 12 per cent sales tax on margarine?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): The matter is being considered. I have received representations in this regard, both from manufacturers and consumers, and of course we are considering the matter.

FLOODS**NEW BRUNSWICK—ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS**

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): I have a question for the Prime Minister, of which I have given him notice. Will the government agree to co-ordinate its efforts with the provincial government of New Brunswick to help the victims of the severe flood damage in southern New Brunswick, and will