

Inquiries of the Ministry

Affairs and the Minister of Finance. What is happening to the government's guideline program of 6 per cent with regard to wage and salary increases? Has this program been abandoned or modified or is everything going according to plan?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): The Prices and Incomes Commission is continuing to seek co-operation in wages as well as in prices and incomes. I hope that it has the support of my hon. friend.

Mr. Baldwin: Sir Galahad.

Mr. Stanfield: I do not think the Acting Prime Minister, in his own embarrassment, should provoke me. Does the government, instead of simply passing this off as something devised by the Prices and Incomes Commission, propose to take any measures toward encouraging the acceptance of this program which I understand it has accepted as its own?

Mr. Sharp: The government has accepted the recommendations of the Prices and Incomes Commission. It established it, it encourages it, it gives it all the support that it can, and I hope it has the support of my hon. friend.

Mr. Stanfield: Is it the position of the Acting Prime Minister and of the government that this program in its present form, with the exceptions that seem to have developed, carries conviction?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would not think that this question is in order.

INFLATION—APPLICATION OF SIX PER CENT
WAGE INCREASE GUIDELINE TO POSTAL
EMPLOYEES

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): My question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the wage increases announced in the past few days for teachers, firemen, iron workers and towboat workers in British Columbia, all of whom have received substantially more than 6 per cent, is it the government's intention to continue to insist that the postal workers get no more than 6 per cent?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): The Prices and Incomes Commission this morning issued a statement in which it said

that it is undertaking a preliminary inquiry into wage settlements ratified yesterday by Toronto construction workers, that it is proceeding to gather the facts and, after it has done so but not before, it will be making appropriate comments.

PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION

SALARY INCREASES OF STAFF MEMBERS

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Solicitor General who I understand is Acting Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I would like to ask him a question regarding the policy of the Prices and Incomes Commission with respect to the salaries of its own staff. Is it correct that those joining the staff of the Prices and Incomes Commission are guaranteed a 15 per cent increase over the salaries they were making prior to joining that staff and are guaranteed an annual increase in excess of the 6 per cent which the commission has laid down for others?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Acting Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would be very glad to have the hon. member's allegation looked into and have an answer brought forward by the minister on his return to the House.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Will the minister undertake to have a statement made on motions by the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, the Minister of Finance or the President of the Treasury Board some time this week so that we may have all the facts with respect to the income policy applying to the staff of the Prices and Incomes Commission?

Mr. McIlraith: No, Mr. Speaker, because it must be readily apparent to hon. members that any answer given should be given by way of answer to the parts of the hon. member's allegation that can be considered to be a question.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Under those circumstances, will the minister undertake that an answer will be forthcoming to my question this week?

Mr. McIlraith: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will try to have that done.