

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I do not think the question is in order.

[*Translation*]

OLD AGE SECURITY

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE ON STATE OF LEGISLATIVE PREPARATION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, directed to the Prime Minister. Now that the house is well launched in its committee discussion of the medicare legislation and as we have the resolution preceding the old age legislation on the order paper, is the Prime Minister in a position to give the house the assurance that the government has its legislation dealing with old age pensions ready to introduce into the house the moment the resolution passes?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it has been ready for some time.

While I am on my feet—

Mr. Fulton: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, so that the Prime Minister may deal with this matter as well. Can the right hon. gentleman tell us when, under the provisions of this legislation, the first cheques incorporating the increases will be available to the recipients?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, I doubt if that question is in order.

NATURAL GAS

ALLEGED STATEMENTS BEFORE U.S. COMMISSION CONCERNING REJECTION OF CANADIAN IMPORTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): My question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Because of statements made in the Federal Power Commission hearings in Washington yesterday, rejecting the proposal to import Canadian gas into the United States on the basis of the gas being too expensive as compared with Texas gas, can the minister tell the house of any communication or information coming from those F.P.C. hearings?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, may I take this question as notice and answer tomorrow?

[*Mr. Knowles.*]

AGRICULTURE

ARDA—ORGANIZATION OF COMMUNAL PASTURES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Alcide Simard (Lac-Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development.

Would he tell the house whether the matter of setting up community pastures, especially in underdeveloped designated areas, comes within the jurisdiction of ARDA?

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. member is asking the minister for an interpretation of an act, and that type of question is not acceptable.

[*English*]

HOUSING

POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR DIRECT LOANS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John Addison (York North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour, who is responsible for Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. In view of the report in the *Globe and Mail* this morning that President Johnson has ordered the release of \$250 million in special federal mortgage funds to spur the lagging construction of housing in the United States, and because the housing shortage appears to be a North American problem stemming from a lack of funds, is the government contemplating making additional funds available for direct C.M.H.C. loans?

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the government's program for direct loans—and direct loans of course include loans for public housing as well as those in the private sector—is under study. A number of officials were actively engaged in a special study yesterday. They have been studying the matter for some time. The government's program for next year will be announced within the next week or so. Certainly it will be announced before 1967.

Mr. Addison: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister if figures are available showing the ratio between direct C.M.H.C. lending here, and direct lending in the United States, on a per capita basis?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question seeks statistical information and cannot be asked at this time.