

*Inquiries of the Ministry***DRUGS****TETRACYCLINE—ALLEGED FRAUD BY U.S. COMPANIES IN OBTAINING PATENT**

Mr. Lind: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member kindly resume his seat? There are just two minutes left of the question period, and unless there is unanimous agreement that the hon. member should be allowed—

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Lind: Since all the manufacturers of fir plywood have raised their prices within a few days, would the minister investigate the possibility that some association is co-ordinating and controlling these prices?

Mr. Basford: I am not sure what is implied in the hon. member's question.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Basford: I will certainly consider it; I am anxious to consult with my hon. friend on his ideas.

Mr. Craig Stewart (Marquette): My supplementary question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and it follows an earlier question on the price of the Maverick, is the minister aware that the Ford Motor Company of Canada has increased the prices of certain 1970 models during the last month. This is in addition to the increases announced on the introduction date.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY COURT JUDGE,
P.E.I.**

Mr. Melvin McQuaid (Cardigan): My question is for the Minister of Justice. I would ask him whether a selection has yet been made to fill the present vacancy on the county court bench in Prince Edward Island, and how soon we can expect an announcement in this respect?

Mr. Speaker: That question should be placed on the Order Paper. Does the hon. member raise a point of order?

Mr. McQuaid: Yes, Your Honour. The urgency of the question arises from the fact that I have some personal business to attend to.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: On those very valid grounds the question might be allowed.

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): This question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this year I questioned the minister concerning a United States government damage suit for \$25 million against American Cyanamid and Charles Pfizer and Company for fraudulently obtaining a patent for the antibiotic drug tetracycline. I asked the minister whether his department was investigating possible similar fraudulence in Canada with respect to the same companies—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the hon. member kindly put her question.

Mrs. MacInnis: I hope I shall get there soon. The minister assured me that his officials would be getting in touch with United States officials to determine whether there was a basis for investigation in Canada. Now I come to the punch line.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mrs. MacInnis: Could he now inform us of the result of this action.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): The assurance I gave the hon. member at that time still stands but, as she knows, actions taken under the Combines Investigation Act are not made public until revealed in the director's annual report or until action is instituted in the courts.

PUBLIC SERVICE**POLICY AS TO WORKING LANGUAGE**

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): I have a question for the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. On Monday, November 17, I asked the Prime Minister whether the Secretary of State was extending government policy beyond the present practice when he reportedly said that French would be used as the working language in units of the Public Service. The right hon. gentleman informed me that he would look at the statement and tell the House what the Secretary of State had said and whether it amounted to an extension of government policy.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): After the question was put to me I immediately asked the Secretary of State about the