

Inquiries of the Ministry

Prime Minister is aware that the unemployment rate in the Atlantic area has risen since—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS**LUMBER—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF PRICE INCREASE**

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is for either the Prime Minister or the government house leader. In view of the fact that it is utterly impossible to direct any question on the matter of housing before next Tuesday, although the minister is supposed to be here, and perhaps not even next Tuesday—and even then it would only be directed to the half of the minister dealing with housing—will the government give consideration to the question of housing by appointing a whole minister to look after it.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member's question is only half in order.

Mrs. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Half a supplementary?

Mrs. MacInnis: If the minister in charge of housing is to be away periodically may I ask whether the government will please designate somebody who is supposed to look after our questions in this regard.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might point out to the hon. member that the Minister without Portfolio from Manitoba is prepared to answer questions about that department. If the hon. lady is concerned about a particular question she might give notice of it.

Mrs. MacInnis: I certainly am if I could ask it because I had it ready for today. I shall direct it to the Minister without Portfolio. In view of the sharp rise in the first quarter profits of leading lumber producers in British Columbia, coupled with the sharp increase over the past year in the price of lumber and other building supplies, will the minister urge upon the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs the need for action to roll back the price of such building materials needed to meet the housing shortage.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's question is rather in the form of a

representation. She can assume it has been noted.

Mrs. MacInnis: Will he himself undertake to discuss with these British Columbia lumber firms the need for restraint in the matter of the prices of their products to keep down inflation?

[Translation]

NATIONAL PARKS**SALE OF LANDS BY QUEBEC TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Could he tell us whether the Quebec government opposed the sale to the federal government of land owned by the Quebec Seminary?

Mr. Speaker: The question should be put on the order paper or discussed at the time of adjournment, should the hon. member prefer that.

[English]

INQUIRY AS TO NINETY-NINE YEAR LEASE

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In relation to the minister's reply to my question yesterday concerning the leasing of lands by a provincial government for the establishment of national parks, can the minister say whether a 99-year lease of land will be acceptable from any province.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am not sure whether the question is one of urgency. The hon. member might place it on the order paper.

[Later:]

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege regarding Your Honour's suggestion that my question should be placed on the order paper. I realize I must accept your suggestion but it seems quite evident that questions which are not very urgent and are placed on the order paper remain there for some time. I am still waiting for an answer to a question I placed on the order paper on January 29.

Mr. Speaker: I might suggest to the hon. member that if he thinks it is taking too long to get the reply to which he is entitled he can always give the Chair notice of his intention