

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

SHIPBUILDING

APPLICATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF CERTAIN UNIONS

Prices and Incomes Commission to initiate such a discussion in the immediate future before this price increase comes into effect.

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, as I have made clear to the House, the commission is an independent body—

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): How independent?

Mr. Basford:—and I have outlined to the House what it is endeavouring to do. Because it is an independent commission, I think it would be quite unwise for me to be directing it every hour as to what it should be doing.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Could the minister advise the House how high the government considers the cost of living must go before it will realize and admit that its anti-inflationary program is a farce and a mockery?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I noted that in his answer the minister said that the commission makes decisions from day to day. The word he used was "decisions", and decision means finality. Is he in a position to table the decisions made by this commission during the last two weeks?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I said the commission does not report to me on a day-to-day basis.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The minister cannot get away with that. He said decisions were being made from time to time. Will he secure from the commission the decisions made in the last two weeks with reference to this matter?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I would have to check the record as to what I said. I believe I said the commission does not report to me day by day.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I rise on a question of privilege. The minister cannot misstate or misinterpret what he said. He did say decisions were made. Now he is trying to back away because he does not know anything about the decisions.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Shefford.

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Could he tell the House if the government intends to implement the main recommendations of the CNTU and the Federation of Metallurgists, Miners and Chemical Workers about the shipbuilding industry in Canada?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, these recommendations have been made to the committee of the Canadian Transportation Commission. I shall look at the brief and, above all, I shall wait until the Commission's recommendations are known.

[English]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

UNJUST DETENTION OF NATIVE PEOPLE IN PENAL INSTITUTIONS

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. In view of the recent decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in the Drybones case, can the minister assure the House that no native people are at present being unjustly held in our penal institutions?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): I hope that is the case, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since the Drybones case, has the Minister of Justice, his department or the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development studied the Indian Act to ascertain which sections now have no effect by reason of the momentous judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada in its approval of the Bill of Rights?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out to the right hon. member that we proposed to withdraw the Indian Act completely on June 25 last.

Mr. Diefenbaker: In withdrawing it, will the sections that are discriminatory be removed?