

Inquiries of the Ministry

no machinery within my department for granting approval to any products.

[Later:]

Mrs. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, now that the front benches have had their precedence, may I again address a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. If the facts prove to be as stated, will the minister see that this dangerous toy is taken off the market immediately and certainly before Christmas toy buying?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is making a representation, so in fairness to both the middle and front benches I have to rule the question out of order.

Mrs. MacInnis: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

NICKEL PRICE INCREASE—PREFERENCE FOR CANADIAN CUSTOMERS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs regarding the increase in nickel prices. Did he request the nickel companies to defer any increase in the prices of their product to Canadian customers, a request that would appear to be particularly reasonable in view of the fact that only 4 per cent of the output of these producers is marketed in Canada?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker. This is a question which I think should be more properly directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, but such a request would result in a somewhat complicated two-price system which I think would have disadvantages.

Mr. Stanfield: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Why does the minister feel it is appropriate for him to ask the oil companies not to increase their prices and at the same time feel he has no right to make a similar request in the case of the 25 per cent increase in the cost of a product to Canadian customers, a request that would appear to be relatively easy to meet, particularly in view of the fact that a 25 per cent increase in the price of this product would seem to finish off any effort to establish a program of restraint?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question is more in the nature of an argument.

[Mr. Basford.]

[Translation]

FINANCE

REQUEST FOR FEDERAL LOAN TO QUEBEC

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister.

Since Premier Bertrand of Quebec was refused yesterday, in New York, a \$60 million loan at a 9.65 per cent rate of interest and because of the urgency of the situation, would the Prime Minister grant a loan to the Quebec government under the same conditions enjoyed by foreign countries?

[English]

COMBINES

ACQUISITION OF AIR CANADA FACILITIES BY CAE INDUSTRIES AND NORTHWEST INDUSTRIES

Mr. William Skoreyko (Edmonton East): I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Is the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission looking into the recent acquisition by CAE Industries and Northwest Industries of Edmonton of Air Canada facilities in Winnipeg to determine whether or not competition is unduly affected in light of the sixth report of the Economic Council of Canada?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): It has been the policy in the House for the minister responsible for the Combines Investigation Act, a policy established by the former minister of justice from Kamloops, that the minister does not reveal what inquiries are under way, because of section 28 of the Combines Investigation Act, until such cases are either taken to court or reported in the annual report.

Mr. Skoreyko: I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In light of this merger, is his department making any effort to seek opportunities for employment for the 325 men who have been laid off in this industry, particularly in regard to help or assistance for those who wish to move?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. P. M. Mahoney (Calgary South): I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Does the minister regard the imminent pay increases of members of