

*Inquiries of the Ministry***VETERANS AFFAIRS****WOODS REPORT—REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION BY STANDING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the desire on the part of veterans organizations to appear before the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs to present their views with regard to the Woods report, can the minister say whether the government has yet prepared its white paper on the Woods report, so that the work of this committee may proceed?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, the white paper is not yet completed. I hope it will be completed as soon as possible. The white paper, along with the Woods committee report will be referred to the proper standing committee. I trust that the interested veterans organizations will be invited to appear.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): May we hope that this can be done during the month of April?

Mr. Dubé: I do not know, Mr. Speaker.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS**INQUIRY AS TO SETTING UP OF PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, in his capacity as a great fighter against inflation, the following question. I do so because of the recent substantial rise in the cost of living index and in view of the fact that the study group—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. gentleman ask his question?

Mr. Stanfield: Following six months of study I should like to ask when we may expect the appointment of the study group which was forecast in September and promised for the month of March?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that the Leader of the Opposition recognizes my true place in this government. I also welcome the hon. gentleman's support for the policy I announced in September. I am sure he will agree that I should seek out

[Mr. Bell.]

the best possible men available for appointments to the prices and incomes commission, which is what I am doing. Unfortunately those people, being able, are busy and have difficulty disentangling themselves from present commitments. I expect to make an announcement in this regard very shortly.

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a related question. Can the minister in his usual succinct manner report on the federal-provincial conference on consumer affairs last week, and while he is on his feet will he indicate whether or not the subject of a federal securities commission was discussed at that conference?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the last part of the question is no; it was not the proper kind of conference at which to discuss that subject. In answer to the first part of the question I should like to report that we had a very successful two day federal-provincial conference at which all provinces were represented. The conference issued a communique. If the hon. member would like me to do so I will table it, though it was distributed to members. At the conference we discussed a number of matters including consumer credit, packaging and labelling, misleading advertising, hazardous products, etc. I think the real significance of the conference is that it was the first conference of consumer affairs ministers or those ministers responsible for this subject. A new degree of co-operation and good will now exists among federal and provincial ministers.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, when may the house expect some federal initiative in respect of a federal securities commission in view of the fact that without such a commission some provinces are left in a rather ambiguous position?

Mr. Basford: I am sorry I did not catch the last part of the question. Let me answer by saying we have been studying this matter very carefully. My officials have been meeting with certain provincial officials and we are in the course of drafting the federal position on this matter. I expect some initiative to be taken very shortly.

INDUSTRY**DEVCO—COMPULSORY RETIREMENT OF MINERS**

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a question