

statement in the House on this subject and, in particular, set out whether he is in favour of the majority report or the minority report?

Mr. Munro: Mr. Speaker, as I have already indicated, we will carry on with as constructive action as we can as a government to combat this problem. When we have had a chance to study the report we will take the appropriate policy decisions and make them known at that time.

Mr. Woolliams: Is it the minister's intention to leave this matter until after the election?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

LE DAIN COMMISSION REPORT ON CANNABIS—POSSIBLE REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is it the intention of the minister to refer the report to the appropriate committee for study and report to the House?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, as to the procedure as well as the decision of the government on the substance of the report, I again indicate that we just received the report this morning and it is premature to make any declaration at this time. As soon as we have had a look at it and have discussed the matter, perhaps we can then offer greater clarification.

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): My supplementary is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that cannabis was grown at the experimental farm for research purposes and that research is presently being carried out, can the minister tell us whether he intends to make a policy announcement prior to the completion of these experiments or is he going to consider this aspect in addition to the report?

Mr. Munro: Sufficient marijuana was grown for necessary experimental purposes on the experimental farm last year to make it unnecessary to repeat the operation.

An hon. Member: Is any left over?

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

INCREASE IN COST OF FOOD—MEASURES TO ASSIST LOW-INCOME CONSUMERS

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. Having regard to the fact that between April, 1971 and April, 1972, the cost of food used in the home rose by twice as much as the cost of living generally, will the Acting Prime Minister tell us whether the government has measures in hand designed to help low-income consumers?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the government has taken many measures of particu-

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lar interest to low-income families, the aged and the disabled. I think the hon. lady will agree that this should be our first priority.

Mrs. MacInnis: In view of the fact that only two groups of people benefited from the budget—the aged and full-time students—would the Acting Prime Minister urge upon the government the necessity of convening immediately the joint parliamentary committee on prices to go into this matter of rising food prices?

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mrs. MacInnis: What are we to say when we go out to talk to low-income people who are desperate?

Mr. Baldwin: Tell them to wait until election day.

ALLEGED INCREASE IN PROFITS OF SAFEWAY AND GEORGE WESTON—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Bearing in mind the excessive profits made by many of the food companies, such as Safeway and Weston, can the Acting Prime Minister tell us whether he will cause these excessive profits to be investigated and instruct these companies to roll back their prices?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. That is not the intention of the government. The profits of these companies are taxed under the laws of Canada as approved by this parliament.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I shall return to the hon. member in a short while but I am anxious that we should complete the first round of questioning.

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[Translation]

FINANCE

USE OF DRAWING RIGHTS TO STABILIZE PAYMENTS BETWEEN COUNTRIES—POSSIBILITY OF EFFECTING MONETARY REFORM

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Finance Minister, but, as he is absent, I shall direct it to the Acting Prime Minister.

As there is some question of an international monetary reform through consultations and co-operation between countries, would the minister tell the House if the drawing rights will be accepted as a priority process to stabilize the balance of payments between countries?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, these supplementary drawing rights have proved to be a very useful supplement to international liquidity. They will be continued. I believe they are being established as equivalent to gold.

[Translation]

Mr. Latulippe: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.