

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

report that excessive prices were being charged by chain stores on the prairies.

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** We were hoping to get together on the occasion of a meeting between attorneys general in Saskatchewan at the end of this month, because the date coincided with that of another meeting which we had expected to take place. Some of my staff are in touch with the staffs of the provincial ministers to arrange a date for a future meeting, because the previous arrangements fell through.

**Mr. Korchinski:** In view of charges by the Consumers Association of Canada that the federal combines branch did not have all the necessary information at the time of its findings on the basis of a study of the Batten report, is a further review of the situation being undertaken, or is such a review contingent upon the results of the discussions to be held between the minister and his provincial counterparts?

**Mr. Basford:** The allegation to which the hon. member refers is not correct.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRICE STABILITY

**Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Can the minister tell us when the standing joint Senate-Commons committee on price stability, incomes and employment, will be established?

**Mr. Basford:** The suggestion to set up this committee was outlined in the policy for price stability which I tabled in the house on December 20. As I stated at that time, I am consulting with various interested economic groups to obtain their views on the white paper, which I expect will be completed next month.

**Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** That is not the answer to the question I asked, Mr. Speaker. I asked whether the minister could tell us the date when this committee will be established.

**Mr. Basford:** The white paper made it clear that the policies outlined there were for the purpose of forming a basis for consultation, and that process is now under way.

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister agree to make a statement in the house, in view of the interest in this matter,

[Mr. Korchinski.]

after he has held the meeting with the provincial ministers of the three western provinces to which he referred in his earlier answer?

**Mr. Basford:** I would have to consider that after I have met with them.

## INDIAN AFFAIRS

## MOOSE FACTORY—POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT OF HOSPITAL DIRECTOR

**Mr. Ralph Stewart (Cochrane):** I should like to ask a question of the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Normally I would make use of other means of obtaining information, but since the people involved at Moose Factory, Ontario, chose to have this subject aired over the C.B.C. last night, I feel I must ask whether or not the minister intends to follow the advice sent to him by the petitioners at Moose Factory to replace the medical director of the hospital, a Dr. Bridge, who is termed by them as a colonial master, with a Canadian doctor who understands the problems of the people in the area.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I did not see the television program to which the hon. member referred, so I cannot immediately say whether this is a matter of urgency or not. However, it seems to me it is the type of question which lends itself to discussion at ten o'clock.

## VOCATIONAL TRAINING

## REFUSAL ON LANGUAGE GROUNDS OF APPLICANTS FOR RETRAINING

**Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey-Simcoe):** I should like to address this question to the Minister of Labour, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister say whether some of the applicants for the 29 vacant places in the eight weeks retraining program at George Brown College, Toronto, are being refused on the ground that they have an imperfect command of English?

**Mr. Speaker:** Here again, if the hon. member thinks this is an urgent question it might be discussed at the time of adjournment this evening.

## PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

## WEST BLOCK—CONVERSION OF CONFEDERATION ROOM TO ACCOMMODATE COMMITTEES

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. Is the government planning to alter the Confederation Room in the