

Questions

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

the commission represents its unwillingness to come to grips with the serious problem of inflation and rising prices in this country, and has very little to do with the quality and calibre of the men being appointed to the commission itself.

A number of years ago the Macquarrie commission reported to the government on combines legislation. That commission pointed out ways which were open to the government to take effective action against rising prices. From that time the government has done very little to accept any of the recommendations of the Macquarrie commission. It has failed to use the powers it already possesses to investigate rising prices.

The disturbing feature about this commission is that it will be completely isolated from the joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons that the minister has talked about appointing. Since the committee cannot make recommendations to the commission, the members of this house will not have the opportunity to express their concerns in any effective way. The commission will operate in its own way, and if its work is not successful there is very little that the House of Commons can do about it. It seems to me that this is an important failing and one that should be corrected immediately. As co-chairman of the previous committee the minister knows that a committee of the House of Commons can do an effective job in holding down prices and focusing attention on those sectors of the economy that are being abused.

In closing I merely say, therefore, that the best men in the world will not do the job for us if the intentions of the minister and the government are other than the taking of urgent action to counter rising prices.

• (3:20 p.m.)

VETERANS AFFAIRS**STUDY BY STANDING COMMITTEE OF WORK OF CANADIAN PENSION COMMISSION**

On the order: Government notices of motions:

That the report of the committee appointed September 8, 1965, to survey the organization and work of the Canadian Pension Commission, tabled on March 26, 1968, be referred to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to section 2 of Standing Order 21 this government notice of motion stands transferred to and ordered for consideration under government orders at the next sitting of the house.

REVISION OF ORDERS, REGULATIONS AND STATUTORY RULES

Question No. 1,666—**Mr. Fortin:**

1. When will the government undertake a revision of the orders, regulations and statutory rules?
2. What is the staff of the O.R.S.R. division?
3. Is it the government's intention to amend the Regulations Act (R.S.C. 1952 c. 235) principally with respect to the legal status of the regulations and to possible discrepancies with the Canada Evidence Act?

Mr. J. E. Walker (Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister): 1. It is anticipated that a consolidation and revision of subsidiary legislation (regulations, etc., of a legislative nature) will be undertaken after the revision of the Statutes of Canada is completed.

2. There is no such division as the O.R.S.R. division; however, the duties in relation to orders, regulations and statutory rules are performed by the Orders in Council section of the Privy Council office together with the legal adviser to the Privy Council office. The Orders in Council section is composed of three officers and five clerical staff. The legal adviser has one secretary.

3. The government intends to examine the Regulations Act after the Special House Committee on Statutory Instruments submits its report.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

Question No. 1,848—**Mr. Mazankowski:**

1. Does the CNR operate an exclusive communication service and, if not, under what arrangement is this service offered the public in the name of the CNR?

2. Did the CNR's telegraph service operate at a profit in 1968 and, if so, what was the amount of profit to the company?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): The management of Canadian National Railways advises as follows: 1. Pursuant to Section 26 of the Canadian National Railways Act being Chapter 29 of the Statutes of Canada 1955, the C.N.R. is empowered to establish, construct or acquire by purchase, lease or otherwise and to maintain and operate telecommunication facilities systems and services in Canada and elsewhere. In addition, it may carry on a public