

*Inquiries of the Ministry***NORTHERN AFFAIRS**REFERENCE OF LAND USE REGULATIONS TO
STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Will he confirm to the House the commitment he gave to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development in the previous session to refer to that committee the draft regulations on land use for the Territories? If so, could he indicate to the House when he will be prepared to refer those draft regulations to that committee for its consideration?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I cannot grant the request of the hon. member because the regulations involved have not yet been approved by the governor in council, but as soon as they will have been approved, I will try to determine whether that question can be referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

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[English]

AUDITOR GENERALUNANIMITY OF FIFTH REPORT OF PUBLIC
ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Mr. Norman A. Cafik (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the hon. member for Pontiac who is vice-chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. I direct it to him because of the absence of the chairman, the hon. member for Wellington. Was the fifth report of the committee to the House of Commons dated June 26, 1970, relating to the Auditor General's report in fact passed unanimously?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question is not admissible under the rules. Questions to chairmen of committees can only relate to forthcoming proceedings of those committees. For example, members can ask whether committees will sit or not sit. The question asked by the hon. member is not procedurally acceptable.

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CANADIAN WHEAT BOARDRECOMMENDATION FOR PLACEMENT UNDER
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. In light of the recommendation that the Canadian Wheat Board be placed under the Department of Agriculture, made by the grains committee study group that was established to review the task force report during the recent agricultural congress that has just been concluded in Ottawa, may I ask when the Prime Minister plans to implement this important recommendation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have not received any of these reports so far. When I receive them, I will study them.

[Mr. Hees.]

CONSUMER AFFAIRSMAINTENANCE OF REASONABLE RETAIL
FOOD PRICES AND PROFITS

Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to questions asked by my leader and other hon. members. I will therefore omit the preamble and ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs the following: Will the minister not employ some effective method of surveillance and supervision to maintain reasonable and legitimate retail food prices and profits that will be conducive to the welfare of the consumer and to the survival of the small, independent merchants in our rural communities?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's question is in the form of a substantive motion. I suggest that he has made a submission to the minister and he must assume that it will be considered.

Mr. Alkenbrack: Mr. Speaker, could I not obtain an answer, either negative or affirmative, from the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has to assume that the answer to this kind of logical and interesting question would be yes.

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FINANCETAX CONCESSIONS TO "TIME" AND
"READER'S DIGEST"

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. My question is related to the decision of the government that, for constitutional reasons, it cannot involve itself in the sale of Ryerson Press to McGraw-Hill. It involves a field in which no such prohibition exists. Would the minister immediately take steps to end the preferential tax concessions available to *Time* and *Reader's Digest*?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, this matter was dealt with by Parliament. Legislation was passed. If the government were going to make changes it would, of course, propose them in the normal manner.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I assume from that answer that the minister is going to continue maintaining *Time* and *Reader's Digest* as friends of his party.

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[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITYQUEBEC—DISCUSSIONS RESPECTING TRANSFER TO
PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

Since the Quebec premier stated yesterday that his government intends to repatriate the social security programs, could the Prime Minister tell the House whether consultations are now under way in this connection between Ottawa and Quebec?