

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

individual or consumer that feels there has been an injustice. An injustice has been done to the Steinberg firm, a firm which has lived up to the terms of the guidelines and in addition has enabled its employees to get a fair deal without harming the consumer. I suggest that the minister make no further attempts to hide behind Dr. Young in this matter. He should exercise his responsibility as the minister responsible and give Steinberg's the credit due them.

● (10:20 p.m.)

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry):

Mr. Speaker, I must apologize to the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis). The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Basford) cannot be here tonight, so I am stepping in at the last moment with no knowledge especially of the particulars of this case.

I do, however, think that the hon. lady has accomplished one of her objectives. During her intervention in the question period, and again in the late night show, she has given a certain amount of publicity to the achievements of the Steinberg company. They have done the

impossible. They have given wage increases to their employees, increases which were sufficient to result in a satisfactory settlement with the unions in question, and at the same time they have held their prices; indeed, in some cases they have cut them. So Steinberg's I would think, have received much of the publicity they sought.

Also, I think the hon. lady gave to the House and to the nation one example, at least, of where the Prices and Incomes Commission has been successful in its objective of trying to hold the line on prices. This example is an important one, namely, a food chain which sells a great deal of food to very many people in one part of the country. She said it is not the job of the chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission to comment on individual firms. I am not sure that he commented on Steinberg's. He is reported in the press as having done so; I do not know whether he did. In any case, I doubt whether the hon. lady thinks that he should comment on the affairs of Steinberg's individually and publicly in answering them and in publishing any retraction.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.30 p.m.