

as indicated by the Barber Commission report, is the department preparing any legal action against such firms?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we are acting on the recommendations of the Barber Commission.

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabaska): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. Can he tell us when, as a result of his action on the Barber Commission recommendations, we can expect a decrease in the price of tractors? Can he give us an approximate time?

Mr. Olson: Many weeks ago there were alternatives offered to the farmers of Canada of tractors of the same horsepower at a much lower price, per horsepower.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

ELEVEN PER CENT PAY INCREASE—POSITION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS MINISTER AND PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Was the recent increase in pay of approximately 11 per cent granted to a group of civil servants by the Treasury Board with his permission and was the Prices and Incomes Commission consulted?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Prices and Incomes Commission is independent of the government and is free to comment on any wage settlement it wishes and in fact has commented on some government settlements or recommendations made by government mediators and arbitrators. As to whether I gave permission or not, I am not in a legal position, of course, to give or withhold permission.

Mr. Hales: On what basis was the guideline of 6 per cent broken?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, that question should properly be directed to the President of the Treasury Board.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question I should like to ask the minister. In light of—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I believe the hon. member for Wellington has a supplementary. I shall come to the hon. member in a moment.

Mr. Hales: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to continue. I shall direct my supplementary question to the President of the Treasury Board. On what basis was the guideline of 6 per cent broken?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member alleges that a guideline was broken. If he would be more specific, perhaps I could answer.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Hon. members will recognize that we are entering a field of argument between the hon.

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member and the minister. I think we should give an opportunity to the hon. member for Calgary North.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs whether this is evidence of a new policy since he has vacated the 6 per cent guideline set out by the government?

Mr. Basford: No, Mr. Speaker.

ALLEGED DEMOTION OF K.A. STEAD BECAUSE OF INABILITY TO SPEAK SECOND LANGUAGE

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State. On Friday last the Prime Minister, in answer to a question on this subject, advised the House that he would ask the Secretary of State to obtain a report on the charge levelled by the Public Service Alliance that Mr. K. A. Stead of the National Museums Branch had been demoted because of his inability to speak a second language. Has the minister received the report yet? If so, will he advise the House tomorrow on motions about this matter?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, it is a very short report. In answer to the question as formulated by the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings I am informed by the National Museums of Canada as follows:

1. Mr. K. A. Stead has never held the position of chief of the education and extension services branch of the National Museum.

2. Mr. Stead continues to hold the classification of IS3 and to receive the maximum salary rate of that classification, which level he attained in 1968.

3. Mr. Stead has been assigned duties which it is believed he is competent to perform. These duties are not considered to require a knowledge of a second language. Mr. Stead's inability to speak a second language was not a significant factor influencing the decision to assign to him these duties.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh

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[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INFLUENCE OF FLQ ACTIVITIES ON RECOGNITION OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

Have the activities of the Quebec Maoist FLQ had anything to do with the sudden announcement of the recognition of Communist China by the Canadian government?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: I am under the impression that a somewhat similar question was put yesterday, and that the Chair raised objections thereto.