

Inquiries of the Ministry

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I did not quite understand the question, Mr. Speaker. However, I do understand it has to do with offshore mineral rights and this matter is being dealt with by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. He has had a meeting with the premier of Nova Scotia, and I am sure he would be happy to answer the question if it is asked of him sometime next week perhaps.

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DRUGS**REQUEST FOR DEBATE ON LE DAIN COMMISSION REPORT ON CANNABIS**

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the House leader a question. In view of the fact we have been unable to get answers from various ministers in reference to the Le Dain Commission report and the position of the government, would he be prepared to set a day aside for a debate on that subject so we can ascertain from the ministry their position with respect to the commission report?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): As I have said, Mr. Speaker, we have very little government time remaining.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacEachen: But I would be happy to call one of the many opposition days still remaining in this supply period so that the opposition can raise the question of the Le Dain Commission report and we can all discuss it.

Mr. Woolliams: I have a supplementary question for the minister and I ask it in all seriousness. Will the House leader guarantee that there will be another opposition day to give us that opportunity?

Mr. MacEachen: You will have to judge that—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Translation]

PRESENTATION OF LEGISLATION ON USE OF MARIJUANA

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question to the right hon. Prime Minister concerning the Le Dain report.

Is it the intention of the right hon. Prime Minister to inform the House, prior to adjournment, whether it is his government's policy to legalize the use of marijuana?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): This, Mr. Speaker, depends obviously on the date of adjournment. However, perhaps I could answer—

[English]

—and to the hon. member for Calgary North at the same time that there will just as surely be some opposition days between now and the end of June as there will be government days.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. MacKay.]

CONSUMER AFFAIRS**INCREASE IN PRICE OF FOOD—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER HIGHER PROFITS OF CHAIN STORES JUSTIFIED**

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): May I direct a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Mr. Speaker. On Wednesday, as reported on page 2352 of *Hansard*, I asked the Acting Prime Minister if the government was investigating the fact that food prices are rising at a time when food chain stores are showing very substantial increases in profits, and the Acting Prime Minister's answer was in the affirmative. I therefore want to ask the minister whether these investigations are being carried on, whether he intends to report to the House the results of these investigations, and when we may expect such a report?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I believe I responded to a similar question from another member of the hon. gentleman's party the other day. I will repeat my answer to the extent of saying that if any violations of the Combines Investigation Act are brought to the attention of the director of the anti-combines section they most certainly will be investigated, but that has not occurred yet.

Mr. Douglas: In view of the fact that the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs is supposed to protect consumers and that there are very sharp increases in the prices of food coincidental with sharp increases in profits by the companies selling food, will the minister himself undertake to instigate an investigation into this matter to see whether or not there is any collusion among the companies or whether exorbitant profit-taking is going on?

Mr. Andras: That would properly fall under the purview of the director of the combines investigation section, and if there is any evidence of this kind of action taking place I am sure he will carry out his duties in that regard.

REQUESTS FOR INVESTIGATION OF HIGHER FOOD COSTS IN YUKON THAN IN YELLOWKNIFE

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): My supplementary question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Does he intend to accede to the repeated requests of the Yukon Consumers Association to conduct an investigation into the relatively higher cost of food in the Yukon than in Yellowknife despite cheaper transportation costs to the Yukon?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): I should like to check again on that, but it is my understanding, if my memory serves me well, that an investigation has been conducted and a reply sent to the people who inquired. I will be glad to refresh my memory and respond to the hon. member at the earliest possible moment.