

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I do not propose to put forward an argument, Mr. Speaker, and I cannot understand why a question directed to the minister in respect of what he said yesterday is argumentative. I asked him to explain what he meant by—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A ruling has been made.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I should like to ask the Prime Minister if he would interest himself in the union side of the question of the reduction in work at the Sydney steel operation, as opposed to the minister's interest on the company side.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**ATLANTIC REGION—STEPS TO IMPROVE
UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Does the Minister of Finance intend to bring forward any fiscal policies which will be specifically designed to offset the effect of his tight money policy in the Atlantic area, which at the present time has an unemployment rate of 10.9 per cent?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

COMBINES**INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED PRICE FIXING
BY OIL COMPANIES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I have a question that I was going to direct to the Minister of Justice, but on reflection I think I should bring it to the attention of the President of the Privy Council in his remaining capacities in the legal field. The question is this: Having in mind the announcement today in British Columbia that a royal commission has recommended complete divorcement of the jobber and retailer marketing of gasoline products and an end to consignment selling. I wonder whether the minister can say when the federal government will announce its decision in regard to the very long-standing recommendations of the restrictive trade practices commission in this respect?

Hon. Guy Favreau (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member's notice of intention to ask this question was sent to the Minister of Justice and has been referred to me. I thank the hon. member for

[Mr. Speaker.]

that notice. Hon. members will be aware that, as I have told the house on previous occasions, the question of implementing the T.B.A. report is being given very serious and careful study. I will say frankly that one of our most difficult problems in this respect is to see how the recommendations in the report should they be accepted by the government, can be translated into law with any hope of giving effective relief to the retail gasoline dealers.

We are also required to consider whether it would not be preferable to undertake a more far-reaching review of the anti-combines legislation, of which the T.B.A. report would form a part. It is these considerations that have caused us to be deliberate rather than hasty in our consideration of the matter and, of course, we have felt obliged to await the outcome of the case recently decided by the Supreme Court of Canada in which the constitutional aspect of a part of the act was in issue.

I can assure hon. members, however, that we are giving earnest attention to the whole matter and I hope to be able to make known the position of the government before very long.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**REQUEST FOR FURTHER STATEMENT
ON FOOD AID**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reid Scott (Danforth): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Recently a question was put to the minister regarding food aid for India and the government food aid plan generally. In the course of his short, concise answer the minister said he might expand on it at a later date. I wonder if he is in a position to do so today.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the government proposes to provide to India during the current calendar year approximately one million tons of food, principally in wheat and flour, worth about \$15 million during the first quarter and \$56 million in the remainder of the calendar year. Out of the basic aid program and the progressive increase fore-shadowed in the Speech from the Throne, it is also intended to provide substantial help to other developing countries now experiencing serious food situations, such as Pakistan, which was mentioned the other day by the hon. member for Medicine Hat, and Ghana, where early assistance is badly needed. The