

Inquiries of the Ministry

Leader. Would he request his colleague, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, to make a statement on motions at the earliest opportunity next week as to the present state of availability of employment for students during the summer months? I ask this question, Mr. Speaker, because as all hon. members of the House know there is a great demand by students of all ages—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has asked a question. It is not necessary for him to explain why he is asking it.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I believe it was yesterday that my colleague indicated in response to a question that he would not be in a position to determine the absolute level of employment this summer until the end of the summer was reached, but he did indicate he would be prepared to make available to the House in the near future the measures which the government proposes to undertake to assist student employment. I will bring the hon. member's question to his attention and remind him of the previous answer.

TRANSPORT**DEMOLISHING OR REPAIR OF NEW WESTMINSTER GRAIN ELEVATOR**

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, may I address a question to the Minister of Transport. Is the minister now in a position to answer my question relating to the grain elevator at New Westminster, B.C., as to whether the elevator is to be torn down at an approximate cost of \$250,000 or will it be repaired at the same approximate cost and thereby be available for grain storage and shipment?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have taken account of the previous question which the hon. member asked me and I provided him with some information. I regret I do not have the subsequent information on the question he asked this morning but I will undertake to get it as fast as I possibly can.

REPORTED REDUCTION OF AUTOMOBILE SAFETY FEATURES BY MANUFACTURER

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Yesterday I asked the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs a question relating to a

report that an automobile company was reducing or eliminating certain safety features in some automobiles in association with a reduction in price, and the minister undertook to bring it to the attention of the Minister of Transport. Can the Minister of Transport give the House any assurance that these reduced safety features will not in fact constitute an additional hazard on the highways, and can he tell the House whether he has investigated this matter?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have conducted a preliminary investigation. The facts, as I know them at the moment, are that the so-called reductions are not within the guidelines or regulations which are now being adhered to voluntarily by the industry. As the Leader of the Opposition will know, we are now in the process, as a result of the passing of the highway safety bill a few weeks ago, of drafting new regulations. I can assure the House that in those regulations will be all the necessary safeguards, and if it should happen that some of these co-called withdrawals do not conform with the regulations we will see that the regulations are enforced.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the minister's statement that some of these changes will reduce the safety factor below what the regulations will permit, can the minister give us a firm date on which these regulations will become effective?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, I do not think I said they had gone below what the regulations permit because we are not sure at the moment whether they are below. In so far as the date for proclamation of the regulation is concerned, the technical details are complex but we have undertaken to have them out within the next two months and I would think the announcement will likely come within the next six weeks.

Mr. Stanfield: A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister had an opportunity to inquire whether the direction to reduce these safety features came from the head office in the United States? If so, is this a matter of concern to the minister and is any action to be taken in regard to it?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge of where the so-called instructions originated. I should emphasize, however, that the major one that appears to be of concern in some models and in a limited number of