

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not a question of privilege. The hon. member asked a question and a supplementary. He is now seeking to ask a second supplementary. I suggest to him, with respect, that perhaps we should give other members an opportunity to ask questions.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: As far as the Chair is concerned there are 40 minutes available for oral questions. If hon. members wish to spend the entire period on one subject, that is their responsibility, not mine. I try to be as fair as possible and to give every member a chance to ask his question. That is the only reason I suggested, very honestly and in good faith, to the hon. member that we might go on to another question. I recognize the importance of the matter and the right of hon. members to ask supplementaries, but the rules are clear. Supplementaries are within the competence of the Chair; and when the Chair feels that we have reached a point when other members should be given a chance to ask questions, hon. members should try as far as possible to co-operate and give the Chair an opportunity to move on to another member.

Mr. Lundrigan: In co-operating with Your Honour I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he will make a clear statement tomorrow on motions regarding the plan of action the government has in mind to react to the domestic unemployment situation so that hon. members will not be obliged to take up the time of the House day after day attempting to pursue this serious question involving half a million Canadians today and a million Canadians several months from now? Will the Prime Minister make a statement on motions tomorrow?

Mr. Trudeau: If I had an assurance from all hon. members of the opposition that should I make such a statement they would ask no further questions I would make it.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Wouldn't you be happy!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have about reached the end of the question period.

Mr. Lundrigan: If the Prime Minister would show a little co-operation in the House—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Regina East.

Mr. MacInnis: On a question of privilege—

Mr. Speaker: I apologize to the hon. member for Regina East. The hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond rises on a question of privilege.

[Mr. Lundrigan.]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**ADVERTISEMENT PROMOTING NEW PLAN—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF TRUTH OF STATEMENTS AND REASON FOR EXPENDITURE**

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege relates to the original question I asked the Prime Minister concerning two departments of government, namely, the Department of Labour and the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Inasmuch as the minister responsible for the latter department is present in the House, I will ask him, now, since the Prime Minister will not take the responsibility, why he, as minister of the department concerned, allows false advertising to be carried at the taxpayers' expense with respect to the unemployment situation in this country?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not a question of privilege. The hon. member is repeating the question he asked a few minutes ago. Perhaps he did not get the answer he wanted. Nevertheless, the question having been asked, the minister might now be allowed to answer and then I will again attempt to recognize the hon. member for Regina East.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Since he asked this question the first time the hon. member has failed to send me the advertisement about which he complains. If he will do that, I will be happy to examine it.

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, further on the question of privilege—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should recognize that this is not a question of privilege. He asked the minister a question and I allowed the minister to reply. Perhaps there might be communication between the minister and the hon. member so that they could consult on the matter raised by the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond.

Mr. Trudeau: What are you trying to hide?

Mr. MacInnis: On a question of privilege arising from the remarks now being made by the Prime Minister who insists on trying to hide something, I am not going to hide anything.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are certainly not progressing very effectively or efficiently this afternoon. We have already reached the end of the question period. I am somewhat grieved that we have not had a chance to recognize a number of hon. members. I am sure we can remedy this situation tomorrow when, with the consent of the House, perhaps some of those hon. members might be allowed to ask a few of their questions. I doubt whether there is a legitimate question of privilege in the matter raised by the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond.

Mr. MacInnis: Does a question of privilege not arise when a member of the government imputes motives to a member of the opposition? This is exactly what the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has done and