

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

for example, that the government's policy is valid, or does the minister regard this particular program as dead?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the commission is making its price review procedure as strong as possible in line with the agreement reached earlier in the year. It is also endeavouring to enlist the support of the Canadian people generally in a price, wage and salary restraint program.

**Mr. Stanfield:** In view of the fact that the government apparently made no effort to appear before the CLC convention to support its policy, I ask the minister whether this particular policy of the Prices and Incomes Commission and of the government, that of reaching an understanding with regard to wage restraints, has been abandoned or can the minister tell us of any specific initiatives the government proposes to take, because otherwise we will have to assume it has been abandoned?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The question asked by the Leader of the Opposition, particularly the second part, appears to invite a rather general statement. The minister might like to reply to the first part of the question of the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Basford:** I have forgotten the first part now, Mr. Speaker. If the Leader of the Opposition would rephrase the first part, I would be happy to answer.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, I shall try to make it easy and simple for the minister. I ask the minister specifically whether, inasmuch as the government made no effort to convince the CLC in regard to its policy, we are now to assume that the government is in fact abandoning this policy or whether there is some specific measure the government proposes to take to implement this policy?

**Mr. Basford:** Mr. Speaker, for some time, both through the government and through the Prices and Incomes Commission, we have been endeavouring to persuade the Canadian people of the wisdom of a restraint program in respect of salaries, wages and other money incomes. We will continue to do that and persist in that program.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I have a further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister to stop speaking in generalities and relate his answer to the question I asked him with regard to specific proposals. I am asking

[Mr. Stanfield.]

specifically whether the Prices and Incomes Commission and the government intend to take any other specific measures in order to implement the restraint program which would now appear to be largely in ruin at the moment?

**Mr. Speaker:** This is the part of the question which I suggested invited a general statement and to which the Chair took exception.

INFLATION—DISTRIBUTION BY PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION OF LEAFLET, "FIGHT INFLATION—SAVE JOBS"

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, might I direct a supplementary question to the minister regarding a notice which I understand has been sent to all Canadians. I received a copy and, judging by the number of people who have mentioned it to me, almost everybody has received one in the mail, at a cost of over \$300,000. It is entitled, "Fight Inflation—Save Jobs". Was the minister's approval obtained by the Prices and Incomes Commission prior to sending out this piece of literature?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** The Commission is independent and it is the wording of the commission. I think the wording of the pamphlet to which the hon. member refers is a great deal more useful than the speech the hon. member made a few days ago to the Canadian Labour Congress.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** My speech was not sent to five million people at government expense. May I ask the minister if this piece of literature represents the government's policy and whether the government's "fight inflation" program has saved any jobs?

**Mr. Basford:** Mr. Speaker, the—we—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Basford:** —we have tried to persuade the country that the more effective the program of the Prices and Incomes Commission is the more jobs we will have in this country. If the leader of the New Democratic Party does not understand simple economics it seems to me it would be very difficult to get that through his head.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There are three or four hon. members seeking the floor to ask supplementaries. I remind hon. members that there are only a few minutes left before the