

Inquiries of the Ministry

answering as he did, did not intend to leave that impression.

[Translation]

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question.

Can the right hon. Prime Minister tell us whether his nonacceptance means that he refuses to accept any other suggestion but his own?

[Text]

HEALTH AND WELFARE**IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS
OF ROYAL COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I wonder whether the hon. lady, either today or at an early date, will make a statement to the house on the steps her department is actually taking to get ready to implement the recommendations of the Hall commission report. In particular, could she in that statement tell us whether the government is doing any of the things that the Hall commission report recommended should be done pending the holding of a conference?

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I can say at this moment, as I have already said publicly, that immediately upon receipt of the Hall commission report a committee of experts of my department was set up to break down the report, go into various sections of it, bring together various recommendations, attempt to cost them and get some idea of the recommendations. I was informed yesterday that there are now 14 subcommittees dealing with various aspects of this report in order to get a report for me at the earliest possible date. I am afraid I cannot say anything more than that, because that is the only step that has been taken so far with respect to the Hall commission report.

Mr. Knowles: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether the minister would endeavour to make a statement at an early date with respect to the second part of my question, namely what is being done with regard to those things that the Hall commission recommended should be done pending the holding of a conference. I refer her to page 92 of the report.

Miss LaMarsh: I shall be glad to take this suggestion into consideration, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

If it is decided that it would be appropriate to make such a statement in the next few days during the debate I shall be pleased to do so.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**INCREASE IN COST OF LIVING DUE TO
HOUSING COSTS**

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance based on information from d.b.s.

Could the minister tell us if it is true that the cost of living index rose 2.8 per cent from last year and if it is true that the rise is due to higher housing costs?

[Text]

Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker, it is not correct. The cost of living index has gone up by 2 per cent in the past 12 months, which is less than the increase in the countries of western Europe, or in Japan or South America. Of this, I think one fiftieth would be due to changes in the cost of housing.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**SUGGESTED EXTENSION OF SITTING HOURS
DURING FLAG DEBATE**

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

Since the members of the Conservative party appear to have a lot of things to say on the flag issue and since every opportunity must be afforded the members of the Conservative party to speak as much as they want on the matter, being in a democracy, is the right hon. Prime Minister considering extending sitting hours to 15 hours a day for as long as the flag debate will last?

[Text]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I think, Mr. Speaker, we ought to see how we proceed in accordance with the hours already agreed on.

[Translation]

Mr. Georges Valade (St. Mary): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.