

[Translation]

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

JUNE CONFERENCE DATE—TELEVISIONING OF PROCEEDINGS

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Prime Minister.

In view of a statement made by officials of the Ontario government to the effect that the next federal-provincial conference on the constitution would take place from June 11 to 13, is the Prime Minister in a position to tell the house whether or not a decision has been reached in this connection, and, if not, when we may expect one?

The Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am glad to confirm this statement. A decision was taken yesterday. As a matter of fact, we had set other dates, but, as they were unacceptable to two provinces, we made a number of telephone calls as late as yesterday. It seems that the 11th, the 12th and the 13th will suit every province, subject to confirmation in writing, but there appears to be good grounds for that premature announcement.

Mr. Asselin: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Could the Prime Minister assure us that the proceedings at that conference will be broadcast on radio and television as has been the case for the other conferences?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, at the request of some premiers, this meeting will include not only premiers and ministers, but also a certain number of officials. This is what has been requested by one premier, and for that reason we do not believe it useful to telecast those joint meetings of ministers and officials.

[English]

COMBINES

DRUGS—PRICE FIXING BY B.C. PHARMACISTS

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs whether he is aware of the present price-fixing manoeuvres of the British Columbia Pharmacists Society in charging all welfare patients an extra dollar per prescription for drugs and, if so, what action he contemplates to deal with this matter?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the action and, as a result of the

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little knowledge I have about it, I do not approve. I should however advise the hon. member that the practice of pharmacy is within provincial jurisdiction under their provincial licencing authority.

Mrs. MacInnis: Will the minister refer the matter of such apparent price fixing in respect of professional fees to the combines investigation branch?

Mr. Basford: It has been for some time, Mr. Speaker.

FISHERIES

HERRING—CLOSING OF BAYS TO SEINERS

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Defence Production in his capacity as the acting minister of fisheries. Has the Minister of Fisheries issued instructions closing any large bays on the east coast to Canadian herring seiners, effective April 15, and, if so, was this action taken as a result of a shortage of herring, or what was the reason for this move since it has a great impact on herring reduction plants and Canadian herring fishermen?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, I would have to take that question as notice; it sounds fairly involved. If the hon. member would care to consult with me later, I would be glad to get the information for him.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

P.E.I.—DISCUSSION OF FINANCIAL PROBLEMS WITH PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. In view of the statement made by the provincial treasurer of Prince Edward Island in his budget speech yesterday that "nowhere in the hard line taken by the Minister of Finance, Mr. Benson, was there any recognition of those regional disparities to which the federal government stands pledged to give consideration, and which are clamouring for redress", would the Prime Minister, in view of this belief held by the provincial government of Prince Edward Island, say whether it is his intention to discuss these financial problems with the government of Prince Edward Island in the near future, or have the Minister of Finance do so?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, technically speaking I suppose the quotation is correct, in the sense that it is