

board and its functions whether or not legislation is required.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I direct a question to the Minister of Finance and ask him whether, if it should be decided that no legislation is necessary and therefore no resolution is necessary, it is his intention and the intention of the government to table a white "paper"—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Lewis: This was an example of Commonwealth solidarity—a white paper or some other document outlining the powers, objectives and functions of such a board.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, a definite decision was not made whether that outline will consist of another statement in the house or will be embodied in a white paper, or both, but I can confirm that it is the intention to lay before the house more details on the nature of this board.

Mr. Lewis: I have a further supplementary question. In view of the fact that the setting up of the board, as the minister indicated in his speech the other day, is part of the policy he presented to parliament, could he indicate whether we are likely to have that additional information before the resolution now on the order paper is debated by the house, and certainly before the bill based on the resolution is produced in the house?

Mr. Pearson: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I hope to be in a position to make a statement on this matter tomorrow, or at the latest on Monday.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

REPORT ON GROCERY RETAILING IN PRAIRIE PROVINCES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Corporate and Consumer Affairs. In view of the Batten report showing excessive profits and indicating a monopoly in the distribution of food products by the western grocery chains, will the minister inform the house what action the combines branch has taken?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have received copies of the report and, as I suggested earlier in reply to a similar question,

Inquiries of the Ministry

we are reviewing all the recommendations that affect our department. As a matter of fact, this morning I called Judge Batten and invited her to Ottawa next week in order that we might discuss some of the recommendations in her report.

[Translation]

INQUIRIES OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the hon. Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

As part of the training courses now being given throughout Canada, does the minister intend to set up personality courses which would permit, for instance, to smarten up the hon. member for Argenteuil-Deux-Montagnes?

[English]

Mr. L. R. Sherman (Winnipeg South): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister, if the government has any old centennial medals lying around would it consider sending one to Mr. George Bain?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): If I can find a very old one I will do that, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Does the minister soon expect to be free to express his opinion on financial matters, or does the Prime Minister intend to keep him chained to a sinking ship?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

FINANCE

POSSIBLE ACTION BY U.S. RESPECTING GOLD PURCHASES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg): In view of the present clamour for gold, has the Minister of Finance any information from his counterpart in the United States to the effect the United States may cut the price of gold or stop buying it altogether, as reported