

Inquiries of the Ministry

makes along these lines are almost completely incorrect. I think he would be well advised to not base statements on these incorrect assumptions.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not know whether the minister is speaking to a point of order, but it does not seem to be an answer to the question.

INDUSTRY**BRITISH COLUMBIA—CLAIMS AGAINST U.S. OWNED LUMBER COMPANIES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. I apologize for not giving him notice, but I have been busily engaged on a television program this morning—

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Herridge:—giving my views on the Canadian flag. I do not know if I upset the apple cart or the bandwagon. My question is, in view of the fact that several small United States owned lumber camps in the Kootenays have failed in recent years and the owners have disappeared to the United States leaving their employees and creditors without recourse, and in particular in view of the recent failure of the Hilco Lumber Company where there are dozens of employees owed money, some to the extent of \$900—

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Herridge:—and the rascals have gone off to the United States—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the hon. member's preamble is getting too long.

Mr. Herridge: My question is, has the government contemplated introducing legislation that will protect Canadian citizens from this nefarious business practice?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I suggest to the hon. member that this is a matter for the courts in British Columbia; one that should be dealt with through the regular judicial bodies.

[Later:]

Mr. Herridge: May I ask a supplementary question. I did not make myself clear. The point is that this is a federal matter, because these employees have put the firms into bankruptcy and there is no blighter on whom to serve notice. Everybody has disappeared. Should there not be some amendment to the Bankruptcy Act?

[Mr. Harkness.]

Mr. Green: There is provision in the law of the land for substitute service and service abroad. The hon. member should consult his lawyer.

COMBINES**SCARBOROUGH TOWNSHIP, ONT.—REPORTED IDENTICAL INSURANCE BIDS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Justice I wish to direct a question to his parliamentary secretary. My question is based on a news item in the *Globe and Mail* of January 10, which indicates that Scarborough township received identical bids on insurance coverage for its buildings in the amount of \$3,665.75 from five insurance companies that are listed. Has the attention of the minister or his department been directed to this set of circumstances, in order that the combines investigation branch might take action?

Hon. Noel Dorion (Secretary of State): I will take that question as notice and advise the Minister of Justice.

UNITED NATIONS**CONGO—REPORTED REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF FOOD**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs arising out of a report that the United Nations food and agriculture organization has requested a contribution of food for South Kasai province of the Congo, where 200 persons are reported dying each day. Has Canada received any such request, and what action is Canada taking to make surplus food available to prevent starvation in the Congo?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs): This question is under consideration at the present time in the Department of External Affairs and in other departments of government.

Mr. Argue: How soon may action be expected, since 200 people are dying every day that action is delayed?

Mr. Green: This government always acts with great dispatch.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY**REVELSTOKE, B.C.—STATEMENT ON RE-EMPLOYMENT OF NON-OPERATING EMPLOYEES**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, on December 21 the hon. member for Assiniboia asked a question concerning