Oral Questions

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

RISING FOOD PRICES—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO CONTAIN INFLATION

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance. In light of the fact that, according to Bank of Canada figures, Canada ranked last among the major industrial nations in containing food prices for the 12 months ended last April, is the government giving the idea put forward by the Secretary of State for External Affairs at a global conference, serious consideration with a view to learning how other nations are better containing inflation with respect to food than Canada is, or is the government simply looking for a ploy to distract the attention of the public—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Simcoe North.

HEALTH

SUGGESTED GRANTS PROGRAM TO ESTABLISH GERIATRIC UNITS FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the increasing aging population in Canada and the consequent increasing burden of chronic illness—50 per cent of a physician's workload being with older patients today—adding to already skyrocketing costs, would the minister give consideration to special research grants or to the establishment of geriatric units where more scientific data could be applied not only to the care of such patients but also to the prevention of chronic disease?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, due to improving health services, it is obvious that there has been an increase in the longevity of Canadians, and geriatrics has become a more important aspect of medicine. I will certainly give careful consideration to the suggestion of the hon. member.

YOUTH

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON FUTURE STATUS

Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State. Since the minister's reason for not making a statement on motions regarding OFY was that the decision as to its future had not been made, and since Cabinet decided on Tuesday not to combine OFY and LIP into a single program, can the minister now give an undertaking to make a full statement on motions tomorrow? Also, will he tell us, now, that in future the OFY program will be based on statute, rather than being run out of the back pocket of the minister?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Provencher. Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

[Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton).]

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): I wish to ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's question was clearly out of order. He cannot ask a supplementary to a question asked in those terms. I think hon. members should know that when they ask questions along the lines of the question of the hon. member for Rocky Mountain, which clearly was out of order, they cannot take it for granted that, the point having been scored, they can then rise to ask a supplementary. I think that is an entirely wrong practice, and that is why I recognized the hon. member for Provencher. I see the hon. member rises on a point of order.

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if you would advise me in what particular my question was out of order when I asked the minister if he would make a statement on motions.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. member had asked only that question, it would have been in order. The hon. member for Provencher.

BROADCASTING

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF RIGHTS TO FM BROADCASTING UNIT KNOWN AS SNOW-GOOSE— GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Communications. In view of the fact that the Department of Communications initiated research for a compact FM broadcasting unit for remote communities, a project commonly referred to as the Snow-Goose project, and as a company called Mico-Com Electronics, of Beauséjour, Manitoba, was successful in its application to build the new broadcasting units, would the Minister of Communications indicate whether the department will release the world marketing and manufacturing rights in order that production of the Snow-Goose project can be undertaken?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I hope that the hon. member will allow me to take note of his question and give him an answer later.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Hamilton-Wentworth and then call orders of the day.

PENITENTIARIES

VILLE DE LAVAL TRAINING CENTRE—FAILURE OF EMPLOYEES TO RETURN TO WORK—ALLEGED MISLEADING ANSWERS GIVEN TO HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Sean O'Sullivan (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. Can the hon. gentleman advise this House whether the failure to report to work of many training personnel at the federal