

Inquiries of the Ministry

tions from the Leader of the Opposition or other members as to how this review might take place. I am not sure that an information ombudsman would be more effective in the ongoing criticism of information services than would be the work of the media or the opposition. I would certainly be willing to consider any suggestions the Leader of the Opposition might have in this regard.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I have made a suggestion. Will the minister accept it?

Mr. Stanbury: Mr. Speaker, if I understood the suggestion and exactly what it meant, I certainly would consider it.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stanbury: But I should like to know more about how this person might be appointed and what his function might be before I would want to give any answer.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

REQUEST FOR APPEARANCE OF DIRECTOR
BEFORE COMMITTEE

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, the Minister without Portfolio could not understand what the Leader of the Opposition said.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is no tribute to his understanding.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: I want to ask a very simple question and I hope he will understand the significance of it and give an answer. In view of the widespread allegations and the criticisms being made of Mr. Gagnon—

An hon. Member: By the Tories.

Mr. Diefenbaker: —would the minister have him come before the committee and place before that committee a biographical sketch of himself?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister without Portfolio): It is surely up to any parliamentary committee to summon the witnesses it would like to hear and question them as it felt appropriate.

An hon. Member: Don't be so innocent.

[Mr. Stanbury.]

IMPLEMENTING OF THIRD RECOMMENDATION
OF TASK FORCE

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Is it the intention of the government to implement the third recommendation of the task force on government information that the information policy suggested by that task force be referred to a committee of Parliament—not merely the estimate in this regard which will come before parliament on May 18?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister without Portfolio): I do not think the hon. member has quoted correctly from the report. The third recommendation has been accepted in principle by the government, as was stated by the Prime Minister some weeks ago. The way in which it might be implemented has yet to be worked out. I would appreciate suggestions from hon. members as to how this might be done. I believe the committee should consider the whole question of government information services and how they might be made more effective.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INFLATION—ROLLING BACK OF TINPLATE
PRICE INCREASES

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): My question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. It is based on the report that price increases affecting tinplate will lead to an increase in the price of containers which will, in turn, raise prices to consumers purchasing food and beverages packaged in those containers. This situation is foreseen by the Prices and Incomes Commission, and I should like to ask the minister whether he intends to approach the steel companies and ask them to roll back the price of tinplate?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): For the time being the contents of the report are being considered by several departments. They will study it before anything is done.

Mr. Saltsman: Can the minister tell us when this examination will be concluded and when he is likely to be in a position to report to the House as to the action he intends to take?

Mr. Basford: Within a day or so, Mr. Speaker.