

that the hon. member is referring to a report from the Canadian Consumer Council, which of course I have read very carefully. The practice can most successfully be outlawed by provincial legislature and the legislature of British Columbia outlawed it last year. I was in Saskatchewan last week, and the legislature there was debating a bill introduced by the Attorney General of Saskatchewan, an amendment to the Direct Sellers Act of Saskatchewan, outlawing the practice in Saskatchewan. I would hope, with the Consumers Advisory Council, that other provinces might take similar action.

[Later:]

Mr. Dinsdale: As a supplementary question, is it the intention of the minister and the government to deal with the matter of referral sales by amendments to the Combines Investigation Act, as recommended by the Consumers Advisory Council of Canada?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, the council made recommendations to the provinces and also to myself relative to the Combines Investigation Act. As the hon. member knows, or should know, we are currently reviewing the Combines Investigation Act and I hope to introduce a revised act this session. In the course of that review we are looking at a number of trade practices that may require attention.

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON LACK OF FOOD FRAUD PROSECUTIONS

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway asked a question on Monday, as recorded at page 5342 of *Hansard*, relative to prosecutions under the Food and Drugs Act with regard to economic fraud in the sale of food and food products, and why there were no prosecutions undertaken by my department from early 1969 to November, 1969. The reason is that the statistics on prosecutions were reported for that period by the Department of National Health and Welfare, who were actually undertaking the prosecutions for my department. Since we started doing the prosecutions ourselves in December, 1969, from then to the present day there have been 16 cases initiated, leading to two convictions, and the other 14 are still proceeding.

Inquiries of the Ministry

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

SYDNEY, N.S.—INVESTIGATION OF HUSTLER CORPORATION

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, but since he is not here I will direct it to his able Parliamentary Secretary. Has the Department of Regional Economic Expansion recently begun an investigation into the affairs of Hustler Corporation in Sydney, Nova Scotia, with the intention of determining whether there has been a misuse of public funds?

Mr. Martin P. O'Connell (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I would have to take that question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

INFORMATION CANADA

QUALIFICATIONS OF NEW DIRECTOR

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question would have been directed to the Minister without Portfolio in charge of Information Canada, but he was not in the House on Monday and he is not here today although these are his duty days. Therefore my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of the remarks of the new head of Information Canada to fellow federal information officers that he "belongs to a generation for whom the very word propaganda was a dirty word. I don't believe in propaganda"—end quote—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member reached the end of the quote just in the nick of time.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I had to give the quotation before asking the question. I ask the Prime Minister, is this the same Jean-Louis Gagnon who between 1955 and 1958, as set out in *Who's Who of Canada*, 1968, was the chairman of the committee on publicity and propaganda of the federal Liberal Party in Quebec?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nowlan: As a supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question was not in order. Perhaps the hon. member has a different question to ask. I am sure he realizes that the question cannot be asked in these terms. He may have another question that could be accepted from a procedural standpoint.