

No. 130

JOURNALS

OF THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OF CANADA

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 1973

2.00 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS

Mr. Cullen, from the Special Committee on Trends in Food Prices, presented the Second Report of the said Committee, which is as follows:

On Tuesday, January 23, 1973, the House of Commons adopted the following resolution:

That a Special Committee of this House be appointed to enquire into and make recommendations upon the trends in food prices in Canada and factors domestic and foreign which account for these trends;

That 25 Members of the House of Commons to be designated by the House at a later date be the members of the Special Committee and that Standing Order 65(5) of the House of Commons be suspended in relation thereto;

That the said Committee have power to send for persons, papers and records and examine witnesses; to sit during periods when the House stands adjourned; to report from time to time and to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be deemed advisable; to delegate to sub-committees all or any of their powers except the power to report direct to the House; to engage the services of counsel, accountants and such other clerical and technical personnel as may be deemed necessary;

That the said Committee shall make its final report and recommendations upon the completion of its investigation, and that it shall make an interim report, including recommendations for action, within two months of its first meeting.

Your Committee held 21 meetings between January 30, 1973 and March 30, 1973 with witnesses from several associations and governments. On Monday, April 2, 1973, the Committee tabled in the House of Commons the first report which made six recommendations which might be paraphrased as:

(1) establish the Food Prices Review Board to monitor and investigate categories of prices for food;

(2) split certain provisions of the proposed Competition Act dealing with consumer protection into a separate Bill which would be enacted immediately, and not tied with the provisions relating to monopolies, mergers etc., requiring reconciliation with broader policy directions relating to industrial strategy and foreign investment;

(3) consider legislation which would require nutritional information on food products;

(4) encourage media to support consumer education programs;