

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to examine the question of what properly might be brought forward to the hon. member in connection with this case. I would be pleased to discuss it with him privately. I will not engage here in comparing one case with another, but I suggest to the hon. member that it is extremely unfair to do so.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I cannot understand that remark being made when a member has risen to question the minister in a responsible way in order to obtain information. This matter has been before the Minister of Justice and the government for some four months. The province of Ontario moved with dispatch, and I say this with the greatest respect, with respect to a similar type of situation immediately it became known. Why can this government not move as quickly? I ask this because many people wonder what the minister's attitude is.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Yorkton-Melville.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT**POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS RESPECTING SICKNESS BENEFITS AND SEVERANCE PAY**

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration and is supplementary to the question asked earlier about the Unemployment Insurance Commission. In view of the numerous delays in the payment of unemployment insurance benefits over the past few months, is the minister in a position to assure the House that he will introduce appropriate amendments before next fall to take care of some basic problems regarding such things as sickness benefits, severance pay, etc?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): If he is here then.

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member had attended the committee yesterday when the estimates of the Unemployment Insurance Commission were discussed, he would have found that members of all parties congratulated unemployment insurance officials for the return to the degree of efficiency which has always been synonymous with the Unemployment Insurance Commission, with the exception of only two months. He is perfectly willing and able, I am sure, to appear before the appropriate committee tomorrow when it continues and pose these questions to the officials who will be on hand.

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TRANSPORT**SHORTAGE OF RAILWAY CARS FOR MOVING BRITISH COLUMBIA LUMBER**

Mr. Len Marchand (Kamloops-Cariboo): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In view of the continuing shortage of various types of railway cars

[Mr. Alexander.]

serving the forest industry of British Columbia, may I ask whether the minister is aware of the situation and what action is being taken to correct this worrisome problem.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have answered various forms of this question during recent days and conveyed the information given to me by the railways, which is that the shortage is being reduced and that more cars have been obtained in the United States and are either in Canada or on the way to Canada. I will be glad to get another status report as of today and pass it to the hon. member.

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FAMILY INCOME SECURITY PLAN**SUGGESTED DELETION FROM BILL OF SECTION DENYING INCREASED BENEFIT TO CHILDREN IN FOSTER HOMES—OBJECTIONS BY NEW BRUNSWICK**

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Are the minister and the government considering deleting a certain section of the FISP bill so that children in foster homes and institutions will not suffer further disability because they will not receive the increase that other children will receive under the plan?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I would point out to the hon. member that this only happens in cases where we are already supporting these children through the province by cost-sharing under the Canada Assistance Plan.

Mr. Fairweather: Has the minister now responded to a telegram from the minister of welfare of New Brunswick objecting to the bill in its present form, pointing out that these family allowance funds are held in trust for the benefit of children and objecting to the fact that the bill took on its present form without any consultation with that province?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway.

Mr. Fairweather: Is there to be no answer? That was not a hard question to answer.

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HEALTH**MEDICARE—INVESTIGATION OF REPORTED EXCESSIVE CHARGES BY SOME ONTARIO PRACTITIONERS**

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is the minister working with provincial authorities to investigate charges that under medicare some Ontario doctors are gouging the public at rates of \$1,000 per week for services in institutions and \$300 an hour for clipping toenails?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I must advise the hon. member