

question relative to the same subject matter of grain. Is the strike in Vancouver over yet and can he assure the house, as he has assured the public through the newspapers, that grain is moving unhampered through Canadian ports?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): As I promised, the grain is and has been moving. I know from questions previously raised by the hon. gentleman that he shares my belief that the problem of grain is a national one.

In so far as the strike itself is concerned, unfortunately the collective agreement was not ratified by the membership. However, may I say in a more positive vein that I understand the point of dissension so far as the membership is concerned is not centred on the monetary issue but rather on certain clauses concerning working conditions, and I am hopeful that these can be ironed out in the next few days.

Mr. Woolliams: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister of Labour could intimate to the house whether it is the new labour policy to move certain commodities and not others.

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, judging from the attitude of the hon. gentleman just before the house recessed he, more than any other person, emphasized the necessity of moving grain in this country—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have the impression that the question was in some way argumentative. The reply is of the same nature. I think that we should go on to a further supplementary question.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INFLATION—VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES— ACTION BY GOVERNMENT

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the unequivocal refusal by the CLC and the CNTU, announced last Friday, to co-operate in any way with management and government in establishing voluntary guidelines as urged by the Prices and Incomes Commission, will the minister advise the house what alternative action the government will propose as a substitute for its apparent failure in its fight against inflation?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest to the hon. member that the question he is asking, although very

important, is one which invites a statement of a general nature which normally should be made on motions, and I doubt that hon. members would want to return to motions at this time.

PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION— POSITION OF CHAIRMAN

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a related question to the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister, who referred to the situation a few moments ago, tell the House whether there have been any discussions between him or any other member of the government and Dr. Young about his continuation as head of the Prices and Incomes Commission? Is he going to return to his post at the University of British Columbia, a position which is still held open for him?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think that the question was put in an improper form.

[Translation]

PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION—CAN- CELLATION OF PRESS CONFERENCE

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): I should like to put a supplementary question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

The Prices and Incomes Commission was supposed to hold this morning a press conference which was cancelled or postponed. I should like to know whether the postponement of that press conference is due to the statements made by the labour leaders on the price freeze as a means to fight inflation, and whether the Commission had been instructed by the minister not to comment on that matter.

[English]

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): I have only read the morning newspapers from which I gather that the press conference was cancelled without comment. I do not think it is related to the factors to which the hon. member referred.

[Translation]

Mr. Asselin: Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a supplementary question. In view of the fact that the Prices and Incomes Commission is scheduled to hold a national conference next December, can the minister give us the assurance that this conference will take place on that date?

Mr. Speaker: I wonder whether the question is so urgent as to be put at this time. I