Inquiries of the Ministry

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF ARMED ROBBER WITH PUBLISHING COMPANY AND CERTAIN PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL MEMBERS

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Solicitor General. Has his attention been drawn to the statement yesterday in Victoria by a person sentenced to 12 years for a series of armed robberies of banks and a financial institution to the effect that he was involved with a publishing company, with an M.L.A. for British Columbia, an M.L.A. for Ontario and two federal M.P.s in so far as these criminal activities are concerned and, if so, would the hon. gentleman mind looking into this allegation?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, the matter has not been drawn to my attention but I will be very glad to look into it immediately.

HOUSING

ASSISTANCE BY CMHC IN PURCHASE OF MOBILE HOMES

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for housing. In view of the drastic drop in housing starts over the past few months, is he giving consideration to making the facilities of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation legislation available to the increasing number of Canadians who are resorting to the larger type mobile homes to solve their critical housing problems?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): We are examining very diligently the question of mobile homes and, more pertinently, the application of the National Housing Act insuring apparatus for the financing of mobile homes. I hope before very long to be able to advise hon. members of the decision that may be evolved.

FINANCE

IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSUMER CREDIT REGULATIONS

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): My question is for the Minister without Portfolio attached to the Minister of Finance. Would he kindly advise the House what progress has been made in determining the nature of the consumer credit regulations? When does he

expect to publish them, or has the government decided to postpone them indefinitely or even throw them overboard?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, progress is being made and a further announcement will be made in due course.

POLLUTION

PHOSPHATE DETERGENTS—ACTION TO CONTROL ACCELERATED WATER CONTAMINATION

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of slashing price reductions now being made by supermarkets on high phosphate detergents, is it the intention of the minister to take steps to halt this accelerated dumping of pollution into our waterways pending the legislation to ban phosphate detergents altogether?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I do not think I would have any authority to do that. I think that probably the present conduct of the chain stores indicates they are taking the government's injunction seriously. They realize we mean business, that they will be cut down by August 1 as indicated, and that the government is firm in its purpose.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster.

Mrs. MacInnis: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon, member has a supplementary question. Perhaps she might be allowed to ask it.

Mrs. MacInnis: May I ask the minister whether the government will consider buying up the stocks of high phosphate detergents and destroying them, as they did with DDT?

Mr. Greene: Of course there is a very great difference between DDT and high phosphate content detergents. The detergent is not a poison; it is a nutrient which unfortunately gives too much life to the algae at the bottom of the lake, but the delay of a few more months after the many, many years of use of phosphate will not make a great deal of difference to the total problem.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stanfield: This is a dangerous attitude.

[Mr. Lang.]