

Prices and Incomes Commission

wishful thinking, more consultation and more co-operation.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, as I have congratulations for the most part to offer the minister, you will believe me if I say that I will be brief, because it is much more difficult to congratulate than to criticize.

For several years, Canada was considered by many countries as a small country covering a few acres of snow. It needed the last wars and the good services of our armed forces for them to have some idea of what Canada really was. Today, anyone of us, anyone of our friends who goes to Europe realizes that our soldiers have been our best ambassadors, even if many of them are buried there. At all events, even if we must now reduce our forces, I think that is perfectly normal, since Canadians have played their role wonderfully well. Considering the length of our coast-line, I am happy that the Maritime command will continue in its anti-submarine role. We all know that Canada has the longest coast-line in the world.

On sea, in the air and on the ground, the department is considering modernizing sensibly everything that is mechanized, and it is quite normal if we want to maintain an adequate defence.

Modernizing the equipment will mean reducing the strength of our forces. We will then know the same effects that were felt in industry and in other fields.

For a long time, the army could afford to keep idle people. But today, in his statement, the minister is advising us that from now on, his role as father of a family is ended and that he intends to administer the department as a business. Therefore, I wish to congratulate him on behalf of our party and assure him of our support.

Mr. Speaker, my only criticism concerns the question of elections. The armed forces being the only group that does not publish electoral lists, it was fraudulently that I, as a candidate, obtained one at the last election. I discovered there the names of two families that left the Portneuf riding twenty-five years ago and are now living in Montreal. Two members of those families who were in the armed forces were approached in Ontario at the camp where they were stationed, and they still had the right to vote in the Portneuf riding. That is my only criticism, and should

the minister reduce the strength of our forces, I trust he will make the necessary recommendations so that the names of military personnel no longer living in their home riding will also be deleted from the electoral lists.

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: Order. I wonder whether the moment is not opportune for the Chair to remind hon. members of the terms of Standing Order 15(3) which reads:

On motions... a minister of the Crown may make an announcement or statement of government policy. Any such announcement or statement should be limited to facts which it is deemed necessary to make known to the house and should not be designed to provoke debate at this stage. A spokesman for each of the parties in opposition to the government may comment briefly, subject to the name limitation.

• (3:10 p.m.)

I suggest to hon. members that when we have spent nearly one hour on two statements we have perhaps not observed either the spirit or the letter of this Standing Order. I appreciate that we are dealing with very important matters, but at the same time I have the impression that over the weeks there has been a tendency for ministerial statements to become longer and for the comments thereon by opposition members to become proportionately longer as well. Perhaps this might be borne in mind by members of the government and by representatives of the opposition when we reach this item of business from day to day.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS**ANNOUNCEMENT RESPECTING APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION**

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have a statement to make which meets the spirit and the letter of your remarks. I should like to inform the house of the names of the remaining appointees to the Prices and Incomes Commission.

Hon. members will recall that I recently announced the appointment of Dr. John H. Young who had agreed to serve as chairman of the commission. I am now pleased to announce that Mr. Paul Gérin-Lajoie, a cabinet minister in a former Quebec government, has been named vice-chairman of the commission. Dr. George V. Haythorne, former