

Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Would he indicate whether he has yet had the opportunity to take any action in the light of the continuing upward spiral in lumber prices?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the government shares the hon. member's concern. Partly as a result of the very forceful and independent representations the hon. member has made—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): The hon. member surely cannot be bought off like that.

Mr. Basford:—officers of my department, the Department of Forestry and the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce met, together with the ministers responsible for those departments, and contemplated action that might be taken. I think that my colleague, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, who has been so communicative today, will have something to say in a day or two.

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question to direct to the Minister of Transport. It is on a theme similar to the one covered by the previous question. Will he advise the house whether he has ordered an inquiry into lumber prices and their effect on housing costs? Have he or his officials told the Canadian Lumbermen's Association that such action has been taken?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I noted that this matter was referred to yesterday. It must be connected with some remarks I made in Toronto on Thursday last. As my colleague indicated, officials of four departments have met on this matter. More recently, the officials consulted with the ministers. Among ourselves we have decided on a plan of action based on such inquiries as have been made. As has just been indicated I hope that one of us, probably the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, will be in a position to make a statement very shortly.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OPENING OF ADDITIONAL PASSPORT OFFICES

Mr. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs which

Inquiries of the Ministry

he may want to take as notice. When will additional passport offices be opened in Canadian cities? I ask that question because of the severe strain imposed on a most competent and efficient branch of our public service which is now overwhelmed with passport applications.

Mr. Speaker: It seems to me that this is the type of question which lends itself to debate at the time of adjournment.

DELIVERY OF PASSPORTS BY REGISTERED MAIL

Mr. Lee Grills (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Will he say whether it is the policy of his department not to guarantee delivery of passports within four days by registered mail?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is asking the minister to give information on policy or to make a policy statement. I do not think the question can be accepted in its present form.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

MEDICARE—DISCUSSIONS WITH CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In view of the widespread concern of the medical profession about the future of our health services, will the Prime Minister say whether he has now changed his mind about meeting the Canadian Medical Association? Will he accede to the renewed request for a meeting made by the association's president?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have nothing to add to the answer I gave a few days ago.

GRAIN

REFUSAL OF ELEVATOR COMPANIES TO ACCEPT DAMP WHEAT

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Will he check on the reported intention of line elevator companies not to take any damp wheat after April 1? Much damp wheat still remains to be handled.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has made a representation to the minister.