

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

I wish the hon. gentlemen would get together.

**Mr. Richardson:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister without Portfolio did bring the question to my attention. As I have indicated, the original question was directed to the Minister of National Defence. My information is that he has an answer prepared for that question.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister whether this matter is also being discussed with the Minister of Manpower and Immigration and the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, in view of the unemployment that may result from this stop work order?

**Mr. Richardson:** Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

**FISHERIES**

## ALLEGATION RESPECTING NEWFOUNDLAND SECTION OF INDUSTRY

**Mr. Ray Perrault (Burnaby-Seymour):** I wish to direct a question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries. Last night during the late show as appears at page 10835 of *Hansard* the hon. member for St. John's East stated that the fishing industry in Newfoundland is poorly managed. Will the Department of Fisheries and Forestry investigate these very serious allegations and take any action which may be necessary?

**Mr. Speaker:** I think the debate might be resumed at ten o'clock.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

## SENATOR KEITH DAVEY—EMPLOYMENT OF LIBERAL SUPPORTERS IN MEDIA INQUIRY

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Will the minister advise the house whether he intends to bring forward a supplementary estimate or, if not, what other procedure is to be followed, to enable parliament to decide on the grant of \$150,000 being contracted for by Senator Keith Davey to employ a number of prominent Liberal Party workers on his fishing expedition into press, radio and television?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the matter of detailed expenditures is a matter for my colleague, the President of the Treasury Board.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Then Mr. Speaker, may I direct the question to the President of the Treasury Board?

[Mr. McCleave.]

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. gentleman knows, he has referred to a committee of the other place. It has not been the practice of this house to try to exercise detailed control over their affairs.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Is it not any longer the practice of the government to seek the approval of the house on estimates of money being expended?

**Mr. Drury:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. It has been the practice and will continue to be the practice to seek the approval of the house in respect to parliamentary appropriations.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Does the government intend to bring forward a supplementary estimate in this regard?

**Mr. Drury:** Mr. Speaker, there has not as yet been any request made either to the government or to this house for supplementary moneys to carry on the operation of the Senate for the current fiscal year.

**CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

## NATURAL GAS—ANNOUNCED PRICE INCREASES

**Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo):** I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. It is with reference to a question I asked yesterday. Is the minister prepared to take action against the anticipated rise in natural gas prices in the west? He answered with his trade and commerce hat yesterday, and said, no. Today in his capacity as minister of industry, concerned about costs to industry in Canada, would he put that hat on and answer the question?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** I might have to see my doctor. I was not aware that I might suffer from schizophrenia.

The question raised is a very complex one. I do not think I could answer it in just a few sentences. The price of gas indeed is going up, but there are regulatory agencies in the provinces, on the production as well as on the consumption side, to keep a check on that. The Canadian Energy Board has responsibility to make sure that the gas exported to the United States is surplus to Canadian needs. It must make sure also that the price is "just and reasonable". I am informed—there is no distinction between "told" and "informed" in French—that at the moment, in some cases anyway, the price of gas going to the United States is at a higher level than—