

Affairs. Did the minister announce in Vancouver recently, or over the weekend, a policy of government loans for the rehabilitation of existing housing stocks? If so, will he be introducing legislation to this effect in the House soon?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that the second part of the question, or only the second question, is in order and the minister will be allowed to reply to it. Possibly the hon. member will get information relating to the first part of his question in this way.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I did mention that we had an experimental program in Vancouver that was established by my predecessor in the Strathcona housing area. There was an experimental program of loans and grants to home owners to rehabilitate their homes. I said we were learning a great deal from that program.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is the kind of question and answer about which there are procedural difficulties. The hon. member may ask his question directly. When he asks it as the hon. member did and obtains the sort of reply the minister gave, then the debate is over what was said outside the House. In that respect that type of question and answer is irregular.

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, I hope I am phrasing my supplementary question in the proper manner. Is it proposed to introduce legislation in the House to expand and extend the provision for loans for the rehabilitation of existing housing?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I think that legislation will be introduced in due course, as predicted in the Speech from the Throne, and when introduced it will reveal what it deals with.

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[Translation]

BANKRUPTCY ACT

REGULATION ALLOWING BANKRUPTS TO USE SERVICES OF DEPARTMENTAL EMPLOYEES—REQUESTED EXTENSION TO FARMERS

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, since the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs is not in the House, I would like to ask his parliamentary secretary a question.

At noon we received from his department a bulletin announcing that in the future people who become insolvent will be able to seek assistance from officials of the Bankruptcy Branch to have them administer their bankruptcy.

Could the parliamentary secretary tell the House whether those who administer their own property—farmers for instance—will be able to take advantage of this new regulation?

Mr. Speaker: If the minister can answer briefly, he may do so, but normally such a question should be put on the order paper or debated at the time of adjournment.

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

LARGER INCREASE IN FOOD COSTS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND—REFERENCE TO PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Is the minister aware of a recent study by Statistics Canada of the consumer index that reveals that the increase in foodstuff costs in Prince Edward Island is almost double or triple that of the other Maritimes centres? If he is aware of such a rapid increase in food costs in Prince Edward Island, is he referring this matter to the Prices and Incomes Commission for study?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, yes, I am aware of it and the Prices and Incomes Commission no doubt, in the general context of its mandate, is giving attention to such matters.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Thunder Bay.

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CANADA LABOUR CODE

INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF NEW BILL

Mr. B. Keith Penner (Thunder Bay): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. Can the minister tell the House how soon we may expect the revised bill to amend the Canada Labour Code, including provisions for technological change?

Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I hope we shall see it soon.

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• (1450)

TRADE

POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES ON CANADIAN EXEMPTION FROM INTEREST EQUALIZATION TAX AND AUTO PACT NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Mac T. McCutcheon (Lambton-Kent): Mr. Speaker, on Friday last the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce was asked this question:

Have there been discussions with the United States government in regard to Canada's present exemption from the interest equalization tax, and are these discussions connected with the discussions concerning the auto pact?

He replied that the question should be directed to the Minister of Finance. Yesterday I directed the question to the Minister of Finance and in his reply the hon. gentleman stated that the subject came within the purview of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. My question is this: does anybody over there know what is going on, because I should like an answer to the question?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): On behalf of myself, the Minister of Finance,