

Mr. Woolliams: Do I gather from the Prime Minister's answer that he goes along with the opinion of the President of the Treasury Board that in dealing with amputees and veterans who have served our nation they are redundant when it comes to lay-offs and have no priority in spite of the Public Service statute which guarantees them priority?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I am asked if I am in accord with the opinion to that effect of the President of the Treasury Board. That is not his opinion. The member has misquoted his position.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. The Prime Minister said I have misquoted the President of the Treasury Board. I will let the record speak for itself. I do not think influence is coming from the President of the Treasury Board but is coming from the Prime Minister who is not serving humanity.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not a question of privilege and I doubt whether we should pursue the matter further. I do not want to be unfair to the Prime Minister by not allowing him to reply to the statement made by the hon. member for Calgary North, but let me say again I think there is no question of privilege.

[Translation]

HEALTH AND WELFARE

ADVERTISING OF CONTRACEPTIVES

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Could the minister tell us whether it is true that the federal government is getting ready to legalize or authorize in the immediate future the advertising of certain contraceptives?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will recognize that his question in its present form is out of order, since he is asking the minister to confirm a news item.

[English]

PENITENTIARIES

ALLEGED USE OF GAS INJECTION UNITS

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, in order to convey information and remove doubts in the public mind I should like to ask the Solicitor General whether he

Inquiries of the Ministry

can at this time make a definite statement that gas injection units have not been installed in any jails in Canada?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I am very glad to have the opportunity to refute the irresponsible statement which appeared in the papers yesterday to the effect that there were gas injection installations in cells of certain institutions in Canada.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. McIlraith: That statement certainly is completely without foundation.

COMBINES

INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATION TO CURTAIL COLLUSION IN PRICING

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct this question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the recent concerted price increases that occurred in the steel, petroleum and nickel industries, does the minister have under active consideration legislation to curtail collusive pricing conduct in these highly concentrated industries?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Without accepting the hypothesis of the question, may I say it was made clear in the Speech from the Throne, and in the speech I delivered a week ago Monday in Vancouver, that we have very actively under consideration a revision of the Combines Investigation Act which I would hope to introduce for first reading before this session ends.

Mr. Dinsdale: In the light of the Vancouver speech, will the minister inform the House when he will be reporting on his department's consideration of the report of the Economic Council of Canada on competition in Canadian industries?

Mr. Basford: The government's reaction to the report of the Economic Council on competition will be shown in the bill which we intend to introduce to revise the Combines Investigation Act.

[Later:]

LACK OF STAFF IN BRANCH

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs regarding the Combines Investigation Act. Has he paid some attention or will