

on this very important work, has the government any plans to see that the necessary funds and facilities are made available to this distinguished Canadian surgeon?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This question very closely resembles one asked by the hon. member for Simcoe East the other day, and I do not think it can be asked at this time.

Mr. Brand: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, with all deference I would hesitate to question your judgment in this regard, but I submit that this is a new question in that I am asking for the provision of funds in view of the disclosure made yesterday by Dr. Murray.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. member is right the matter might be discussed at the time of adjournment.

INDUSTRY

CLOSING OF TORONTO PLANT BECAUSE OF AUTOMOBILE AGREEMENT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam asked me a question that he had put to one of my colleagues a day or two earlier in connection with an application for assistance that was made to the adjustment assistance board by employees of Perfect Circle Company Limited of Don Mills.

I am pleased to be able to assure the hon. member and other members that this application has been referred to the board and will be dealt with at their sitting which opens on December 1. If the application is approved the workers will be eligible for transitional assistance benefits from the date of lay-off; in other words the assistance will be retroactive. In the meantime those employees who are entitled to unemployment insurance will get it in the usual way.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for the promptness of his reply, but may I ask him this question. If the hearings are held early in December at what date will the retroactive payments likely be made?

Mr. Nicholson: Mr. Speaker, I can only say that this particular board, which is chaired by an experienced chairman, acts very promptly.

Inquiries of the Ministry

COPPER—PRICE INCREASE BY NORANDA COMPANY

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, questions have been asked in recent days about the action taken by Noranda mines re the price of copper, and I have some information to give on this subject.

At the request of the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Trade and Commerce, officials of the Department of Trade and Commerce were in touch with Noranda earlier today. The company announces that effective today until further notice the domestic price of 51 cents Canadian replaces the E. and M. J. based price of 50.96 cents Canadian, which price has applied since Monday. E. and M. J. means New York Engineering and Mining Journal, Mr. Speaker. This, and the assurances given to officials, indicates that the company will not be applying the formula announced earlier which would have led to a much higher price in December and subsequently.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister explain what the change in price means? Am I correct in assuming that the price formerly was 47½ cents and now it is 51 cents?

Mr. Pepin: I only gave the house information I had. I was not commenting on it. The price up to recent days had been 47½ cents. I understand that it was very much feared that the price could have gone up to 60 cents. Again I am only repeating information that I have received.

Mr. Douglas: May I ask a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have already passed the time that is allotted for questions.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I was the only one of my group who put a question within a 30-minute period today. The hon. member for Portneuf (Mr. Godin) got up about ten times and tried to be recognized in order to put a very simple question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I shall be pleased to recognize the hon. member for Portneuf tomorrow. I should, however, like to point