

Inquiries of the Ministry

thought, in that committee with the campaign we are running against misleading advertising—a very effective campaign, I might say—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. McGrath: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the members of the opposition parties are being denied an opportunity to comment or to react to this very important statement of policy because the minister refuses to make the statement in the House. Because of that I redirect my question to the minister in this precise form: will he make the statement of policy in the House in order to enable members of the House to comment on it?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I have already made the statement, and I do not think the time of the House should be wasted by making the same statement again. If it is thought appropriate that I make a further statement on misleading advertising, I will consider that.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN SPEAKER'S GALLERY OF COMMISSIONER E. M. J. A. SASSEN, EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, may I have the indulgence of the House to introduce in your gallery Commissioner E. M. J. A. Sassen, Commissioner of the European Economic Community.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Basford: Commissioner Sassen's responsibilities include administration of those sections of the Treaty of Rome dealing with restrictive business practices, and we are delighted to have him in Ottawa for mutual discussions.

Mr. Baldwin: I hope he gets more out of you than we do.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the fact that many of my constituents, the latest being an 82-years old veteran of the first world war, keep asking me when veterans pensions and allowances will be increased by the implementation of the Woods report,

[Mr. Basford.]

can the minister please tell me what answer I can give to those who are suffering severely from the rising cost of living?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this question has been answered many times in the House.

Mrs. MacInnis: A supplementary question. Can the minister indicate any probable date when the period of waiting will be brought to an end?

Mr. Dubé: Not at this time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question can be a supplementary question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs because it was pre-empted. Can the minister advise if the direction by cabinet to trim \$500 million from the proposals of the Minister of National Health and Welfare with respect to increases for the disadvantaged included a cut-back on increases in war veterans allowances and disability pensions?

Mr. Dubé: This is not the case, Mr. Speaker. In any event, of course, I cannot comment on what takes place in cabinet.

SAINT JOHN VETERANS HOSPITAL—STATUS OF TAKEOVER AGREEMENT

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint-John-Lancaster): By coincidence, Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is also directed to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. It is in connection with the takeover of the military hospital in Saint John and the conflicting statements made by the minister and his counterpart in New Brunswick. Can the minister say whether he feels that the contract that has been held up can be brought into effect, or has it been completely terminated and will it have to be renegotiated?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs): There is no military hospital in Saint John. This is a veterans hospital, and the agreement between the government of Canada and the province of New Brunswick has merely been postponed.

Mr. Bell: With respect to the correction that the minister has made I am glad to hear him make it. It is the first time I have ever seen him show concern for the veterans.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize to hon. members who apparently still have questions to ask, but pursuant to the order of the