

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO SETTING UP OF PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I would like to ask my good friend the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs whether the extraordinary delay in announcing the appointment of the commission on prices means that the minister has abandoned this idea? Does he believe the government has already licked inflation or is he actually going to set up a commission?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): I would like to tell my good friend the Leader of the Opposition that the government has not abandoned its policies to establish a prices and incomes commission. I am most anxious to have this established as quickly as possible. I have had some difficulty in the selection of personnel for the commission. I expect this difficulty will be resolved very shortly.

An hon. Member: Jim Tucker is still available!

Mr. Basford: I am delighted to hear a nomination from members of the opposition. However, under the circumstances it is one I cannot accept. I hope to make an announcement shortly. The prices and incomes commission will be part of the program of this government's determination to beat the inflation problem.

Mr. Stanfield: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I have had bad luck with assurances today, but could the minister assure us the commission will be announced and appointed in 1969?

Mr. Basford: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the difficulty the minister is having in recruiting members for the commission, would he consult with the Leader of the Opposition, who will be most helpful in this regard?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

FLOODS

TRAIL, B.C.—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON FINANCIAL AID

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): I would like to direct a question to the Minister

Inquiries of the Ministry

of Public Works. In view of the continuing and disheartening delay of any firm commitment from either the provincial or federal authorities in respect to the flood disaster in Trail, B.C., may I ask the minister what recent discussions, if any, his department has had with the provincial authorities in British Columbia on sharing the costs of the disastrous Trail flood?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, we have had no discussion with the province of British Columbia. That province has not asked us for aid. As the Prime Minister explained, the matter of floods in three provinces is under study and a report is expected momentarily. In the meantime, we have not turned down the possibility of giving assistance in Trail. We are waiting for the report to assess what would be proper.

Mr. Harding: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that federal assistance has been given to other areas, such as the city of Alberni where similar disastrous floods hit, what guidelines for cost sharing have been laid down by the federal authorities—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

REQUEST FOR MEASURE RESPECTING CRIMINAL RECORDS

Mr. D. R. Tolmie (Welland): I wish to direct a question to the Solicitor General. Will the minister be bringing forth legislation at the next session of parliament pertaining to the subject of the sealing of criminal records?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): Yes.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member referred to the next session. Perhaps the question might be asked then.

Mr. Tolmie: I think it is rather urgent, Mr. Speaker, that the government should start this legislative program. It is a matter of urgency.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

ENLISTMENT GOALS FOR ARMED SERVICES

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. To answer