

Mr. Nowlan: Why wait for spring?

Mr. Graftey: Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary question to the Prime Minister? Has at least one measure been decided upon and prepared for legislative action? If so, will it be introduced first thing next week according to the government's priorities? Will the Prime Minister, because of the urgency accorded economic measures in the throne speech, instruct his ministers to present this legislation to the House first thing next week so that we can get on with the job?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (1130)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The answer is yes, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member will see some measures on the order paper, and he will see the order of priority in which the government calls them. It would be interesting to have the Conservative party decide on its own priorities. It is difficult to know—

An hon. Member: We have ours now.

Mr. Trudeau:—from this morning's questions—

Mr. Nowlan: The first priority is to get rid of you.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would hope we would not get into a debate.

INCREASE IN FOOD PRICES—REQUEST FOR ISSUING OF
INFORMATION INDICATING PRICES RECEIVED BY
FARMERS

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Has the government given consideration to putting out a release, perhaps monthly, to indicate the increase in the cost of food as related to the price the producer receives in order to show that the producer is not at fault?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the bureau of statistics does put out a release on this subject. I do not know if there is any particular detail—

An hon. Member: We don't know about it.

Mr. Trudeau: On the contrary, Mr. Speaker, these releases are public. There was one made this morning and I am sure it is the basis of the questions of some of the hon. member's colleagues.

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker, does the Prime Minister feel that the information being issued to the public is adequate and put out in such a way that it tells the true story rather than putting the blame on the producer?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is asking for an expression of opinion. The Chair will now recognize the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings on a supplementary question.

Oral Questions

INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT—EFFECTIVENESS OF
MEASURES IN FORTHCOMING BUDGET TO DEAL WITH
PROBLEMS

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance. Does the minister have reason to believe that the measures to be introduced in the budget he has now prepared for presentation to the House in the very near future will be more effective in dealing with inflation and unemployment caused by inflation than the budget he presented on May 8 last and, if so, would he take the first opportunity on motions to explain what the reason is? Come on!

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member but the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, the minister owes an answer to the House so the people of the country can be prepared for more increases in inflation and unemployment similar to those that resulted from the last budget if the new budget is not going to do a better job.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

INQUIRY INTO FOOD PRICES BY SPECIAL COMMITTEE—
PLANS TO PROTECT LIVING STANDARD OF PERSONS ON
LOW INCOMES IN THE INTERIM

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that if the committee inquiry into prices is to do anything worth while it will take some time, has the government any plans in the meantime to protect the living standard of low-income individuals and families from further erosion by higher prices?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, some measures were announced by the government in the last budget, notably the increase in pensions by escalation. Further measures were announced yesterday by the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We will return to these supplementary questions in a moment.

Mr. Hees: The Prime Minister is supposed to speak to the Speaker, not to the *Hansard* reporter.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. For the moment I will recognize the hon. member for Champlain.