

Inquiries of the Ministry

relating to information I received on January 19 last. Has the minister anything to report on the disposition of the tariff board recommendation with respect to wire netting?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I believe this question should be placed on the order paper.

[Translation]

INQUIRY AS TO REDUCTION IN FEDERAL INTEREST RATE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the hon. Minister of Finance.

Can the minister tell us, since the average yield of the federal government short-term bonds is less than 4½ per cent, if therefore any ceiling imposed on the interest rates which can be charged by the chartered banks has been removed?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest that the hon. member's question could easily be discussed during the debate on the motion for adjournment.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. It is quite conceivable that this matter could be discussed during the debate on the adjournment motion. However, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp) was still listening to the translation.

Mr. Speaker: The decision with regard to a question put by an hon. member is taken by the Chair and not by the minister.

[English]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON OFF-RESERVE HOUSING PROGRAM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Can the minister tell us what is the position with respect to the details of the off-reserve housing program for Indian people, which was approved in principle by parliament shortly before the end of the last session?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): I would hope that might be done almost at once. There have been a couple of details which have held it up unduly or it would have been announced before this.

[Mr. Noble.]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Ralph Cowan (York-Humber): I have a question I should like to address to the Secretary of State. Should not the member for Burnaby-Coquitlam and the right hon. gentleman from Prince Albert have been advised earlier, when they were asking about the antics of the C.B.C., that it is useless to make inquiries in that regard because the C.B.C. is accountable to no one for anything it does?

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, that is a very interesting proposition.

[Translation]

CANADIAN CENTENNIAL

INQUIRY AS TO PROPOSED VISIT BY PRESIDENT DE GAULLE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Maurice Allard (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

After his recent meeting with the French authorities, is the minister in a position to confirm the forthcoming visit to Canada of President Charles de Gaulle and inform us of his itinerary.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I am not in a position to give an answer at this time, but I can say that that matter was discussed during my meeting with the French minister of foreign affairs.

[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

KETTLE VALLEY RAILWAY—REPORTED LACK OF SAFETY EQUIPMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Labour. I apologize for not giving him notice, but the matter has just come to mind. Has the minister received representations from the rank and file—not the leadership of the union—of the operating crews on the Kettle Valley railway urging the need for improved safety equipment, stretchers and other things which at present are not supplied, thus contributing to the dangerous conditions under which they operate?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am wondering whether the hon. member is seriously suggesting that this question is acceptable now.