

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends:

1. That the Government give consideration to the advisability of introducing the necessary legislation to establish an independent Food Prices Review Board equipped with such powers as are necessary to review prices, and that it report to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In its report to the Minister, the Board could make recommendations concerning appropriate action to be taken.

In addition, periodic reports of the Food Prices Review Board may be referred to a Standing Committee of the House. The Board shall have the authority to incorporate in its periodic reports, a request to appear before the said Standing Committee.

After a report is referred, the Committee would have authority to call the Board before it.

2. That certain provisions of the proposed Competition Act dealing with consumer protection (e.g., misleading advertising, bait and switch selling) be split off into a separate Bill and enacted immediately, and not be tied in with the provisions relating to monopolies, mergers etc., requiring reconciliation with broader policy directions relating to industrial strategy and foreign investment.

3. That the Government give consideration to the advisability of introducing legislation governing the nutrient content of foods sold to the consumer and requiring nutritional labelling, because it is imperative that nutrition information be brought home to the consumer.

4. That broadcasters in particular, and all media in general, be encouraged to continue, and to increase consumer education programs and articles. Consumer information must be made available to all segments of the population and the Committee invites the media to undertake more investigative reporting of consumer protection.

The consumer is not altogether blameless in the current situation of rising food prices. Buying habits over the years have deteriorated. A massive education program is necessary but will prove fruitless if people fail to take advantage of this service. Consumers must demand information from the media, retail outlets and government departments. It is incumbent upon the consumer, and particularly those hardest hit by rising prices, to make a study of good shopping habits.

5. That the Federal Government, in cooperation with the various provincial governments, consider the feasibility of co-sponsored programs to get proper food on the tables of people with low income.

The Committee feels that programs must be devised to enable food to be made available directly to particular groups, primarily children, senior citizens, shut-ins and the destitute.

6. That the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs make specific monies available to consumers groups to present briefs to various governmental boards, where appropriate.

A copy of the relevant Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence (*Issues Nos. 1 to 17 inclusive*) is tabled.

(*The Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence accompanying the said Report recorded as Appendix No. 9 to the Journals*).

Mr. Dubé, a Member of the Queen's Privy Council, laid upon the Table,—Copy of a Report, dated February 28, 1973, from the Hearing Officer (Isidor M. Wolfe, Esq.,) pursuant to section 8(4)(d) of the Expropriation Act, chapter 16, R.S.C., 1970, (1st Supplement), with respect to certain expropriations for expansion of the Vancouver International Airport.—Sessional Paper No. 291-7/2A.

Mr. Baldwin, seconded by Mr. Hellyer, by leave of the House, introduced Bill C-168, An Act respecting Impeachment, which was read the first time and ordered to be printed and ordered for a second reading at the next sitting of the House.

Pursuant to Standing Order 39(4), the following eleven Questions were made Orders of the House for Returns:

No. 611—*Mr. Broadbent*

1. What are the names of the persons presently in the public service seconded to the service by private enterprise on a temporary basis and, in each case (a) what are the names and addresses of their companies (b) what are the positions these persons occupy in the public service (c) what are the duties of these positions (d) what salary ranges do these positions carry (e) for what period of time were these appointments made?

2. What are the names of public servants who are presently on secondment on a temporary basis to private enterprise and, in each case (a) what are their positions and salary ranges in the public service (b) what are the names of the companies involved (c) for what period of time was the secondment made?—Sessional Paper No. 291-2/611.

No. 690—*Mr. Cossitt*

1. Were any jeeps which were the property of the Canadian Armed Forces disposed of in any way since April 1968 and, if so, what was the manner of disposal?

2. Were any jeeps which were the property of the Canadian Armed Forces sold since April 1968 and, if so, for each vehicle (a) what was the name of the purchaser (b) what was the date of sale (c) what was the sale price?—Sessional Paper No. 291-2/690.