

To conclude, Mr. Speaker, I feel that some people here may die from anything, but certainly not from an overdose of humour!

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Gander-Twillingate and all hon. members will, I am sure, appreciate that is not a question of privilege. When we talk about privilege we are talking about parliamentary privilege. The hon. member feels that his rights—

Mr. Lundrigan: The rights of Newfoundlanders.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have ruled there is no question of privilege. I make this ruling now.

Mr. Lundrigan: This is getting to be a dictatorship.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May we have order, please. The hon. member for Vancouver Kingsway.

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CORPORATE AFFAIRS

INVESTIGATION OF CANADA SAFEWAY OPERATIONS IN OTHER PROVINCES IN LIGHT OF ALBERTA SUPREME COURT RULING

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the action just taken by the Supreme Court of Alberta in ordering Canada Safeway to reduce its domination of the retail grocery market in Calgary and Edmonton, is the minister's department investigating the operations of Canada Safeway in other provinces where it is established with a view to determining the need to protect the consumer from this domination in other provinces?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of the Combines Investigation Act it is not possible to indicate what investigations are in progress. I am sure the director and the staff are actively carrying out their responsibilities.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Peters: You have never given a decent answer in this House.

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): In view of the Alberta court order restricting the amount of money Canada Safeway may spend on advertising, particularly saturation advertising in Alberta, does the minister contemplate similar investigation and restriction of Canada Safeway elsewhere?

● (1440)

Mr. Gray: I do not think there is anything I can properly add to my previous answer.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Oral Questions

[Translation]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

POSSIBLE RECESSION IN QUEBEC IN 1974—PROPOSED MEASURES

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I wanted to put a question to the Minister of Finance, but in his absence I shall direct it to the Prime Minister.

In view of the statement made by the Quebec Minister of Finance during the weekend that a serious economic recession will occur in Quebec in 1974, may I ask the Prime Minister if he dealt with this subject with the Quebec premier so as to take the proper measures to face such a possibility?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I was not aware of this statement from the Quebec Minister of Finance. I shall take note of it and if need be, provide the hon. member with an answer.

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[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

POLICY RESPECTING ALLOWING SERVICE BANDSMEN TO ENTERTAIN AT POLITICAL CONVENTIONS

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. Is it the policy of the minister and his department to allow service personnel bandsmen to entertain in civvies or uniform at political conventions as was the case during Senator Molgat's election campaign last weekend?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the hon. member is referring to. He will have to give me more details before I can answer.

Mr. McKenzie: Will the minister now consider allowing the Queen's Cameron's Reserve Pipe Band of Winnipeg to participate in the Pasadena Rose Bowl Parade on January 1, 1974?

Some hon. Members: Answer!

[Later:]

Mr. McKenzie: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The Minister of National Defence was prepared to answer my supplementary question but was not given the opportunity.

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FINANCE

POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER INCREASE IN BANK OF CANADA INTEREST RATE

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Minister of Finance. In view of the United States prime bank rate having risen to an historic 10 per cent and the falling Canadian dollar, indicating that the rise in interest rates in Canada is not sufficient to