

Inquiries of the Ministry

time ago the government announced the roll-back of a number of user fees that had been intended for imposition this year. I will take up the rental increases the hon. member mentioned with the President of the Treasury Board, but it may be that they are offset by the reduction in rents that the Minister without Portfolio responsible for housing announced the other day.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Has-tings): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the minister. As these increases are completely unjustifiable, will the minister recommend to his colleague, the President of the Treasury Board, that there be a roll-back, with no nonsense about it?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member, of course, is asking a question in the form of a representation, and he has to assume that it will be taken into due consideration.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask whether the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs would take steps to have this increase in rent referred to the Prices and Incomes Commission to see whether that independent commission would find that the increase was justified within the policy of the commission?

Mr. Basford: Well, Mr. Speaker, I shall be delighted to discuss it, as I always do, with the President of the Treasury Board, but I think the fact that we in Canada, according to the latest available figures, have been having a better price performance than the United States, Japan or the United Kingdom is some indication that our present policies are working more successfully than theirs.

POLLUTION

PRESENCE OF MERCURY IN HOWE SOUND

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct this question to the Acting Prime Minister as the Minister of Fisheries and his assistant and also the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources are absent from the House. In view of the announced closing of the Howe Sound to sport fishing because of mercury pollution, can the minister inform the House as to the source of the pollution, its extent and the measures being taken to control it?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I feel this is a question that could be directed to the minister tomorrow as well as today.

[Mr. Basford.]

AGRICULTURE

PUBLICATION OF LIST OF RECOMMENDED CHEMICALS

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture concerning the government action in banning the use of certain chemicals which are no longer available for purchase by the industry for control purposes and the desire of Canadian agriculture and horticulture to reduce risks to a minimum. Is it the intention of the government to publicize before the growing season a list of recommended agricultural chemicals for substitute use both in fields and gardens?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure about the publication of a pamphlet or other type of publication but certainly when the restrictions on the number of purposes for which DDT, for example, would be licensed were determined the department was very careful to ensure that there were other products available for the purposes for which licensing was withdrawn.

UNITED NATIONS

CANADIAN ASSISTANCE TO RELIEVE UNRRA FINANCIAL CRISIS

Mr. Ralph Stewart (Cochrane): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the financial crisis which has arisen in UNRRA, the United Nations body which looks after the refugees in the Middle East, involving an amount of \$4 million, would the government consider taking up a part of that crisis, even though Canada already contributes substantially to UNRRA?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, certainly I would be prepared to look into this question but as the hon. member knows I think we already carry more than our just share. Even so, I will look at the possibility of doing more.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

EFFECT OF ACTIVITIES OF DANISH FISHERMEN ON SURVIVAL OF ATLANTIC SALMON

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. What initiatives is the government taking with respect to the threat to the survival of the Atlantic salmon posed by Denmark's fishing