

Inquiries of the Ministry

house whether steps will be taken to improve the service?

Mr. Speaker: It seems to me that the hon. member is asking a question which has been raised on several occasions these last few days.

[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCEDISCUSSIONS ON STRATEGY AND
PROCUREMENT

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of National Defence whether he is now in a position to answer the question I asked last Friday, which was taken as notice by the then acting minister? I asked whether the Minister of National Defence would inform the house as to the purpose of the discussions that are taking place this week between the Canadian chief of the defence staff and the French chief of the joint staff, reportedly on matters of strategy and procurement, and specifically whether this had any connection with the review of Canadian defence policy, and implied either Canadian procurement of supplies in France or joint procurement projects between France and Canada.

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I shall try to answer all parts of the question in a manner satisfactory to the hon. member. I can say generally that the chief of staff took advantage of this trip to Brussels last week as a result of an invitation extended to him by the joint chiefs of staff of France, but there is no implication so far as procurement is concerned. We are not contemplating buying anything from France at this moment, and I should say there is no connection with the review that is taking place. I think this meeting is specifically concerned with some training manuals in French, which the Canadian forces are trying to produce in Canada.

DRUGSREQUEST FOR REPORT OF ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON SAFETY

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare whether he is in a position to give us a report of the results of the advisory committee on the safety of drugs?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can

[Mr. Latulippe.]

obtain a copy of that report when it is ready and table it in the house, if that is satisfactory.

FINANCEREQUEST FOR PRODUCTION OF ECONOMIC
FORECAST

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance in relation to a question I posed to his parliamentary assistant on December 19. I asked whether he would make available to the house the economic forecast which was made available to provincial premiers.

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I should like to take this question as notice and answer it on Friday.

[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

REQUEST TO REVISE CENTRALIZATION POLICY

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. In view of the great number of complaints received following the centralization of Unemployment Insurance offices, I would like to ask the minister whether he does not consider this sufficient reason to review that new policy?

[English]

Hon. Bryce S. Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member is no doubt aware, the Unemployment Insurance Commission is a body which reports to parliament through me, but acts in an independent manner, free of political interference. If the hon. member has any concrete evidence that the commission is not fulfilling its role satisfactorily I will be pleased to take the matter into consideration and pass it on to the commission.

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the minister would discuss with the commission the advisability of not dismissing long service employees who are being let go because of a reorganization, but keeping them on until retirement takes place, as other government agencies have done?

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, I will be quite prepared on motions at an early date, perhaps tomorrow, to explain the procedure I have worked out with the Unemployment