

Inquiries of the Ministry

Registrar General was reflecting government position or policy last night when he referred to the possibility of introducing a split-level economy and preparing one set of rules to be applicable to large corporations and another to smaller corporations.

Mr. Knowles: So what's new?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): As I understand it, Mr. Speaker, the Registrar General said this was a subject worthy of consideration by the government, and so it is.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister a supplementary question. At what point will ministerial statements be accepted by the Prime Minister, and at what point will they be repudiated? I ask this question in view of the fact that this is the second occasion on which this suggestion has been made.

Mr. Pearson: We believe in giving public opinion a chance to express itself on these matters.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

HOUSING

SUGGESTED EFFORTS TO PERSUADE INSURANCE COMPANIES TO INVEST

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the recently reported success of President Johnson of the United States in persuading the insurance companies of that country to invest \$1 billion in low cost housing, does the Prime Minister intend to approach the life insurance companies of this country with a similar aim in view?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think this is a matter the Minister of Labour would be glad to discuss on Thursday.

Mr. Hees: Then, Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Labour.

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): I will be glad to discuss it on Thursday, Mr. Speaker, but I would like—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Lambert: Where does the buck stop?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Mr. Fulton.]

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Would the Prime Minister give consideration to speaking to the large financial institutions of this country to persuade them that they have a national duty to invest a sufficiently large proportion of their investment portfolios in housing to ensure that the housing needs of this country are adequately met?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. G. L. Chatterton (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Labour. In view of the increase in the interest rate on government loans it appears that in accordance with the government's formula, the N.H.A. interest rate will go up on October 1. My question is this. Is the government considering changing this formula for automatic revision of the N.H.A. interest rate?

Mr. Nicholson: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the hon. member to restrain his curiosity until Thursday.

TRADE

POTASH—ALLEGED DUMPING BY CANADA ON U.S. MARKET

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. N. Ormiston (Melville): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for our genial Minister of Trade and Commerce. Is the minister yet in a position to report on the alleged dumping of Canadian potash on the United States market, and if and when the report of the United States treasury department is available will he kindly report to the house?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, may I take the question as notice, and I will report on Wednesday.

POWER

COLUMBIA RIVER—ALLEGED DELAY IN FEDERAL PAYMENTS TO B.C.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that Hon. W. A. C. Bennett, premier of British Columbia, is publicly condemning the government of Canada for failing to pay the \$12 million owed to British Columbia for completion of the Duncan lake dam July 31 of this year according to the agreement between the federal and provincial