

available to any member of the house and to the public.

As to tabling the merger register of the combines branch, I think that of equal value to hon. members, to economic analysts and to the academic community, is the analysis published yesterday by the Economic Council which contains the significant figures taken from the merger register.

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I have a further supplementary question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the statements made by the director of the combines investigation branch regarding the recent pattern of mergers and take-overs, does the branch also have information on the number of firms which are left to be taken over?

FINANCE

NATIONAL SECURITIES COMMISSION— CONSULTATIONS WITH PROVINCES

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a related question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Can the minister tell the house what success he is having in his consultation with the provinces with respect to national securities legislation. Perhaps the minister can also tell the house which of the provinces are objecting to the minister's proposed legislation.

Mr. Speaker: I wonder whether the hon. member would not be inclined to agree with me that the question he is asking now requires a statement which should normally be made on motions.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, in the light of your observation, would the minister give consideration to making a statement on motions before the house adjourns for the summer recess, to clear up some of the ambiguities that exist in this matter with respect to the provinces.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): There are no ambiguities whatsoever. We are proceeding with the discussions with the provinces, which involve a high level of good feeling and co-operation. I expect in due course to be able to announce government policy on this.

29180—618½

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

INQUIRY AS TO ADDITIONAL CLERK ASSISTANT

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Privy Council.

In view of the heavy workload to be carried out by the clerk of the house and his assistants, does the government intend to appoint an assistant clerk who would help them out? If so, when does it propose to do so?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Yes, Mr. Speaker, the matter is under consideration and we hope it will be possible to name somebody in the near future.

[English]

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

KENNEDY ROUND—PASSING ON OF LOWER PRICES TO CONSUMERS

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Would the minister, at the earliest possible moment, make a statement to the house on motions outlining what steps the government proposes to take to ensure that those who handle goods on which tariffs are reduced by the budget brought down on Tuesday night will pass on the benefits of these reduced tariffs in their entirety to the consumers of this country in the form of lower prices, and so make it possible to ensure that the end in view of helping to control inflation and the rising cost of living may be realized?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, since the policy of accelerating tariff reductions under GATT was agreed upon I have been holding discussions with my officials to establish the proper kind of machinery within the department to ensure that, where savings by reason of these reductions can be passed on, they will in fact be passed on to the consumers of Canada. I hope to have something more to say in a definitive way on this shortly.

UNITED NATIONS

CYPRUS—MAINTENANCE OF CANADIAN CONTINGENT IN FORCE

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the Canadian government agreed to continue for a