

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the question might be rephrased. The hon. member is simply asking whether the minister has received a communication and in these terms the question is not in order. The hon. member might like to complement the question to make it procedurally acceptable.

Mr. Carter: What action has the minister taken on the recommendation of a member of the Argentinia task force that the chairman resign?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have acknowledged the representation and I have sent the full text of the hearing to the gentleman concerned to see whether he will change his mind.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am just now beginning to understand the background of the question and I would not think it should be directed to the Minister of Transport.

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THE CENSUSOPPORTUNITY TO INDICATE UKRAINIAN AS
MOTHER TONGUE

Mr. Allen B. Sulatycky (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Has the government made a decision to downgrade the Ukrainian heritage in Canada by removing reference to the Ukrainian language in the 1971 census and, if so, has this been done in order to please the U.S.S.R. as has been alleged?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the right hon. member for Prince Albert, as often happens, has been mischievous on this subject and I should like to state the facts. There is no such situation. All mother tongues will be recorded in the coming census. This is very important, Mr. Speaker, so would you kindly allow me read two paragraphs from DBS to set the record straight because the record has been deformed.

On form 2A, which goes to two-thirds of all households—this is the short nine-question form—space limitation permitted provision of separate marking positions only for those mother tongues anticipated to be the four numerically largest in the country. Persons with mother tongues other than these four will write in their specific mother tongues, such as Ukrainian, Polish and others, in the space provided on the document. These write-in entries for mother tongues will be coded and separate statistics provided for them in the 1971 census publications.

It should also be noted that on form 2B, the long questionnaire which goes to one-third of all households, space limitations are not as stringent and separate marking positions are provided for a number of additional origins and languages including Ukrainian in question 15 on "ethnic origin" and in question 17 on "language most often spoken at home." So the rumour is wrong, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Carter.]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMYINFLATION—ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY PRICES AND
INCOMES COMMISSION

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. As the minister has had ample opportunity to discuss with the chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission what steps the commission intends to take to fight what the chairman has described as Canada's No. 1 economic enemy, inflation, will the minister outline to the House what steps the commission is going to take to fight this No. 1 enemy?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I recognize the importance of the question asked by the hon. member, but he will appreciate that he is inviting the minister to make a rather lengthy statement of a type that normally should be made on motions.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I was just getting to that part of my question. I was going to ask the minister whether he would take the first opportunity on motions to outline what steps the Prices and Incomes Commission intends to take to fight this No. 1 economic enemy as described by the chairman?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, any changes in government policy from what is now a rather successful fight against inflation will, of course, be announced in the normal way. No doubt my colleague the Minister of Finance will have a good deal to say about this in the budget speech to be presented next month.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder whether hon. members would allow me to go to the next question. We are running short of time and the hon. member for Huron in particular has been trying to ask a question.

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AGRICULTUREFARM MACHINERY—COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION OF
CENTRAL TESTING AND EVALUATION AGENCY—
SUBSIDIZING OF INTEREST RATES

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture and has to do with the Royal Commission on Farm Machinery. Does the government intend to set up a central testing and evaluation agency for farm machinery as the report recommended?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, a decision has not been made on that but, as I indicated yesterday, this is one of the recommendations in which we are keenly interested.

Mr. McKinley: Will the government give consideration to subsidizing interest rates for the purchase of farm machinery in order to assist the farm machinery manufacturers and the farmers?