

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. C. W. Hodgson (Victoria, Ont.):** I should like to ask a supplementary question. Where does the minister get his information with respect to the riding of Victoria (Ont.) to the effect that eggs are selling for 30 cents? I have information from his own department that slips have been issued at 26 cents for grade A large.

**Mr. Gardiner:** We sent people up there to look into the matter and they report that they could have got 30 cents if they had taken them to the place where the required conditions were met.

**Mr. Hodgson:** Where is the right place? The slips I have are from every grading station in the riding.

**Mr. Gardiner:** The hon. member had better consult the government of Ontario and get them to enforce the price that is available.

**Mr. Hodgson:** The minister had better do something for the dominion government.

**PENSIONS****REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN PENSIONS OF SUPER-ANNUATED FEDERAL CIVIL SERVANTS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Has the minister any progress to report in connection with the consideration to which he referred on January 14 to be given to the plight of superannuated civil servants, especially those whose pensions are in the lower brackets? Is he yet in position to announce whether an increase in those pensions will be provided?

**Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance):** I suggest that this is not a proper question at this time. I do not want to labour the point, but I think the rules provide that questions are asked to elicit information for use in subsequent debate in the house. A question should not be asked at regular intervals if the government is formulating policy because everyone in the house knows that government policy is announced in the normal way in the house if the house is sitting, or if the house is not sitting by a public statement. I suggest that we do not waste too much time in asking this kind of question.

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****HAMILTON—INQUIRY AS TO DELAYED PAYMENTS TO AUTOMOBILE WORKERS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mrs. Ellen L. Fairclough (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour, and as he

is not in the house perhaps someone else could answer it. Is the minister aware that there is a serious situation existing in Hamilton with regard to delay in providing unemployment insurance benefits, particularly to workers in the automobile industry who have been laid off recently?

**Hon. Jean Lesage (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources):** I will draw the attention of the Minister of Labour to the hon. member's question.

**PRIVILEGE****MR. KNIGHT—REFERENCE TO ARTICLE IN "STAR-PHOENIX" OF FEBRUARY 9**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. R. R. Knight (Saskatoon):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of personal privilege which may not seem important to the house generally but which would involve considerable injustice to the Conservative opposition if I did not rise at this time. The *Star-Phoenix* of February 9 contained an article which stated that in the course of my speech I had blasted members of the Conservative party in this house for having voted against certain resolutions, and the first one named was the resolution in regard to federal aid to education. I immediately called the editor and he assured me that it was a mistake on their part which will be corrected today.

So it may be clear may I state what I did say. I gave the Conservative party full credit for having supported that resolution on former occasions. I stated that Mr. Drew, a former leader of that party, had on several occasions spoken immediately after I had and led his followers in support of that action, both by voice and, when the opportunity occurred, by vote. The mistake may have arisen from the fact that I had said that I thought that for certain reasons, which I need not go into now, the support of that party had been somewhat less enthusiastic than before and that I was disappointed that the only member of the party who had spoken in favour of the resolution was the hon. member for Digby-Annapolis-Kings (Mr. Nowlan).

**GRAIN****WHEAT—INQUIRY AS TO STATUS OF EXPORTS AND SALES**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Daniel McIvor (Fort William):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the right hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce a question because of the criticism offered by many hon. members to the effect that Canada was losing sales of wheat in the markets of the world and