

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Canada offered to convene such a conference as one way of solving part of the Middle East crisis?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have seen this suggestion and I read the speech of the Israeli foreign minister. I feel, as I think most people do who have been concerned with this problem, that it is impossible to isolate any one element of the dispute and try to settle it separately. Both sides have made it quite clear that it must be considered as a package.

of Finance whether it is his intention to urge the trust companies to roll back the increase they have just announced.

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I presume my hon. friend is talking about interest paid on savings. The position in respect of borrowers, including the government of Canada, is that interest has to be paid to people who are saving money at a sufficient level to attract people's savings.

**An hon. Member:** A supplementary question—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY****INFLATION—REPORTED RAPID INCREASE IN SALARIES AND BONUSES OF EXECUTIVES**

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to either the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the publication of a survey showing that the salaries and bonuses of executives are rising at a very rapid rate, much greater than any labour wage gains, may I ask whether the government will be asking members of the business community if this practice is consistent with their agreement to follow a policy of restraint on prices and salaries.

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I take it that the question indicates that the NDP now support downward pressure on wages and incomes. Of course we are as anxious to have downward pressure on salary and wage demands as we are on prices.

**INFLATION—TRUST COMPANY INTEREST RATE INCREASE ON DEPOSITS**

**Mr. Max Saltzman (Waterloo):** I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the minister's interest in downward pressures, is it his intention to ask the Royal Trust Company of Canada, which has just raised its interest rate on deposits to 9 per cent, to roll back this increase in the interest of curbing inflation?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is making a suggestion to the minister. I do not think it is a proper question at this time.

**Mr. Saltzman:** Perhaps I might reword my question, Mr. Speaker, and ask the Minister

[*Translation*]

**REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION****EAST ANGUS—PAYMENT OF GRANTS TO DOMTAR CORPORATION**

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Can he tell us whether his department has given subsidies to Domtar under the regional development incentives program so that the company will boost production in its mills in East Angus in the Eastern Townships?

**Mr. Speaker:** This question should go on the order paper.

[*English*]

**HOUSING****SASKATCHEWAN—ADVANCEMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMS TO OFFSET DECREASE IN STARTS**

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the heretofore unnoticed Minister of Public Works. In view of the fact that housing starts in Saskatchewan dropped from 430 in January of last year to 18 this year, and in view of the unemployment and economic situation there, is it the minister's intention to advance some of his public works programs in that province in order to help pick up the slack there as far as unemployment is concerned?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have some doubt about the question, but perhaps the minister has a speedy response.

**Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, it would appear that the hon. member's question might better have been addressed to the minister in charge of