

*Inquiries of the Ministry***CONSUMER AFFAIRS****CANADIAN CONSUMER COUNCIL—CRITERIA USED IN APPOINTING PRESIDENT**

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs further to a matter raised yesterday about the Canadian Consumer Council. In view of press statements alleging that the original president of the council was blessed with a total lack of knowledge of consumer problems, would the minister advise what criteria he uses in making appointments to the presidency of the council? Can he also say who the new president is and what qualifications, if any, he has for this position?

Mr. Speaker: I have some doubt that the question as asked is in order. If the minister wishes to reply to this question, I think he should do so by way of a statement on motions.

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LABOUR RELATIONS**DISPUTE BETWEEN RAILWAYS AND LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS—BREAKDOWN OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH CNR—STRIKE DEADLINE**

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Labour if, in fact, the negotiations with one of the railway companies, the CNR, have broken down and a strike deadline of April 5 has been set?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): It is possible, Mr. Speaker, but I have not been notified officially of that and I am not in a position to reveal what I know from confidential sources. I have no way of verifying that publicly.

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GRAIN**PERCENTAGE OF VANCOUVER STORAGE CAPACITY FILLED AT BEGINNING OF RAILWAY WORK STOPPAGE**

Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. What percentage of the total storage capacity at Vancouver was filled at the beginning of the rail strike last week?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to get exact figures for the hon. member. The amount of grain at Vancouver was at a fairly high level compared with what is considered a desirable operating level.

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SOCIAL SECURITY**CONVENTION BETWEEN CANADA AND WEST GERMANY—AVAILABILITY OF PENSION CHEQUES TO CANADIANS OF GERMAN ORIGIN**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. In view of the fact

[Mr. Basford.]

that an answer given by the Minister of National Health and Welfare yesterday has created some concern, there being some question as to its accuracy, I wonder whether he has checked the matter and would care either to confirm or to correct his answer concerning the effective date of the agreement between Canada and West Germany regarding pensions?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, concerning the effective date for payments, if I left any misunderstanding I meant to say that payments would not be made until the convention was ratified. I do not anticipate the convention being ratified, at least by the West German Parliament, for perhaps six to eight months. I do not know whether or not that clears up the matter.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): So the effective date is not now but six months hence?

● (3:10 p.m.)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION ACT, 1970****PROVISIONS RESPECTING DEPARTMENTAL REORGANIZATION, MINISTRIES OF STATE, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES, ETC.**

The House resumed, from Tuesday, March 30, consideration in committee of Bill C-207, respecting the organization of the Government of Canada and matters related or incidental thereto—Mr. Trudeau—Mr. Honey in the chair.

The Chairman: Order, please. When the committee rose last evening clause 14 of the bill was being considered.

On clause 14—*Establishment of Ministries of State.*

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Chairman, if it should be acceptable to the committee, I would suggest that I be permitted to deal not only with ministries of state but also the next clause which deals with parliamentary secretaries so that there will be no repetition. Unless an objection is raised, I shall follow that course.

The Chairman: Members of the committee have heard the suggestion of the right hon. gentleman. I would think there would have to be unanimous consent to permit the right hon. gentleman to deal with both parts in his speech. Is there such consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Sir, as I look over these clauses I can only conclude that the Liberal members will be choosing as their song "Roll Out The Barrel". Over the years there has never been a case that has equalled these particular clauses in respect of the interest they provide for members of the Liberal party. Indeed that is understandable, because if this bill becomes the law of the land and the