

Inquiries of the Ministry

making to keep in Canada scientists who will otherwise be obliged to move to the United States with the project?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, we have been exploring with the McGill authorities other possible work alternatives for this group.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**INQUIRY AS TO CHANGE IN COST OF LIVING INDEX**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg):

Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In view of the release by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics under date of September 25 which discloses that changes will be made in 1968 in the industry selling price indexes and wholesale price indexes, can the minister advise whether changes will be made in the cost of living index, changing its present 1949 base equalling 100 to a more recent year?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question appears to be argumentative and I do not think it is acceptable.

Mr. Crouse: Mr. Speaker, may I point out that major revisions of this type can cause considerable inconvenience to users of these indexes. Long term contracts have to be written in the immediate future which make use of these indexes. I am requesting this information because these contracts will have to contain a provision which allows for a change to higher industry selling prices, and for these reasons I think it is important that we know the government's plans in this regard.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the question should be placed on the order paper.

FINANCE**TAXATION REPORT—EXTENSION OF TIME FOR FILING BRIEFS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. R. Sherman (Winnipeg South): May I direct a question to the Prime Minister. I would ask the right hon. gentleman, does the extension announced yesterday by the Minister of Finance with respect to the deadline on the filing of briefs on the Carter report on taxation mean, hopefully, that the report is to be scrapped?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Mr. Graftey.]

REQUEST FOR TAX REDUCTION ON PRODUCTION MACHINERY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Jack A. Irvine (London): May I direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In view of the increased difficulties which will be encountered because of the Kennedy round tariff agreement, will the minister recommend to the Minister of Finance that he give consideration to easing the tax on production machinery so that our own Canadian manufacturers can compete against foreign firms which are exempt from this tax?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, under the Kennedy round agreements the tariff on production machinery coming into the country will be reduced, thereby reducing the costs that go into production.

Mr. Irvine: May I ask a supplementary question. We know the tax is to be reduced, but a tax will still remain, and it will be of such proportions that it will make it difficult for some Canadian manufacturers to compete.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is argumentative.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**REPORTED STATEMENT BY MINISTER RESPECTING UNIVERSALITY OF FUND**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. W. Martin (Timmins): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. My question arises out of the growing concern over the past two months which was partially clarified yesterday by the statement the minister made at the Chateau Laurier. Now that the minister has clarified the position of businessmen, doctors and lawyers with regard to the universality of the unemployment insurance fund, could he extend his clarification to cover other professions, such as teachers and nurses.

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): I welcome the question, Mr. Speaker, because I welcome the opportunity to clear up a statement that has given rise to some misunderstanding. In the speech mentioned I said that there has been a trend toward universality and that certain other classes may come in. I said to the teachers, however, when their representatives met with me recently, that they are near the bottom of any universal list, if they ever do come in.