

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Pepin:** I indicated to the group that I was not in a position to commit the government to any arrangement at the present time to keep Vickers open for ship construction.

**Mr. Lewis:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I ask the minister whether his attention was drawn by the delegation to the matter of the reconversion of some ships, and whether Canadian Vickers would not be a proper place to have that work done. It would keep the people employed for at least a year or so until the study is finished.

[Translation]

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Since the minister met the representatives of the C.N.T.U. and that a task force will probably be set up to conduct a study, is he in a position to guarantee some work to the Canadian Vickers, at least until the report of the task force is received?

**Mr. Pepin:** Mr. Speaker, during the discussions with the labour organization in question, there were quite a number of "ifs". If the federal government has ships to be built, if the federal government is ready to award contracts without tender, if the Canadian Vickers is ready to build those ships, if another group is ready to replace the Canadian Vickers, if... There were about seven or eight, Mr. Speaker, and things remained at that.

[English]

**Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister. Will he make available to the shipbuilding industry a grant similar to that which he has made available to the automobile industry?

**CONSUMER AFFAIRS****KENNEDY ROUND—PASSING ON OF LOWER PRICES TO CONSUMERS**

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Immediately following the presentation of the budget I asked the minister whether his department intended to introduce machinery which would require importers to pass on to consumers, in their entirety, the tariff reductions announced in the budget. He answered

that he expected to make a statement shortly. Several weeks have passed, and I wonder whether he is now in a position to say if such machinery will be introduced in the very near future.

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I would have hoped the hon. member would have read the speech I made in this house on Monday.

**Mr. Hees:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I did read every word of the minister's speech and there was not in it one word dealing with the matter I have asked about this afternoon. I again ask if he will indicate whether the studies in connection with this matter indicate that this can be done.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

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

**Mr. Hees:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I have asked the minister a question and he has given me the smart alecky answer that if I had read his speech I would have got the answer to my question. I have read every word of his speech and there is not in it one word about the matter I asked about this afternoon.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for—

**Mr. Hees:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of personal privilege.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Hees:** We will wait for a little order, please.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Hees:** I have lots of time.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. May we have order. The hon. member would like to put his question of privilege.

**Mr. Hees:** I will, Mr. Speaker, as soon as I have a chance to do so. My question of privilege is that this minister is deliberately misleading the house. In his speech he did not say one word that has anything to do with the question I asked him this afternoon.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have two rulings to make. The first is that this is not a question of privilege. The second is that the hon. member cannot tell another member that he is deliberately misleading the house. I am