

Inquiries of the Ministry

that we have stated that these matters are under review. In addition, just about two and a half minutes ago the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce indicated that he would be making a statement very soon on this matter.

Mr. Hees: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I will bet any amount of money that I have spent twice as much time in the House this session as the minister has.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Baldwin: You should issue a white paper on that one, Ben.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will recognize the hon. member for the purpose of asking a supplementary question.

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege—

Mr. Speaker: Order. All bets are off.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is: As it is the Department of Finance that controls tariff policies, and as the minister has said that he is not interested in these matters, would he mind telling the House where he buys his blinkers with which he keeps out any views that are not acceptable?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would not think that question is acceptable from a procedural standpoint.

Mr. Hees: Sit down, Ben! Take it easy! You are getting high blood pressure. Relax!

Mr. Speaker: Order.

[Later:]

Mr. Barney Danson (York North): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance. Could the minister tell us if the blinkers referred to earlier are worn on the end of the horse personified by the member for Prince Edward-Hastings?

Mr. Hees: Oh, go back to grade 3!

LABOUR CONDITIONS**REASON FOR QUEBEC UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): I have a question for the Prime Minister. In view of [Mr. Benson.]

statements made by the Premier of Quebec concerning the employment situation in Quebec, is the Prime Minister still insisting that the unemployment rate in Quebec is the result of provincial policy rather than his own anti-inflation policy?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Dauphin.

POLLUTION**EFFECT OF MERCURIAL DUST USED IN TREATING SEED GRAIN**

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Can the minister say what, if any, has been the role of mercurial dust used in the treating of seed grain in western Canada in contributing to the mercury content of western rivers and lakes?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me that this type of information ought normally to be given by way of a general statement. I am not sure whether the minister can find some way to reply to the question briefly. Perhaps he might be given an opportunity to attempt that.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, very briefly, the experts who are examining the situation have not been able to determine this, yet. It seems to me that more time is required so that we can obtain a consensus on whether or not this is a major contributing factor.

TAXATION**WHITE PAPER ON REFORM—POSITION OF PROPOSALS**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance whether the proposals contained in the white paper on tax reform still stand as the proposals of the government for the consideration of the country?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I would simply like to say yes. In further answer to the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings—

Mr. Hees: Wind it up, Ben. You have not got the picture.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Benson: —I apologize for suggesting that he was not in the House. He may have been