

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

whether he has agreed to be transferred to another department?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member will note from the official report of the house that this question has already been asked, and it seems that it was answered.

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might rephrase my question, because after reading *hansard* last night many things were still unclear in my mind.

May I ask the Prime Minister why the house has not been informed of that most important change, since the Queen's Printer was one of the few French-speaking deputy ministers in the Department of Defence Production and since he was deprived of his office without the house being told about it?

[English]

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

[Translation]

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question deals with the same matter.

I wonder if the Prime Minister, who is responsible for appointing deputy ministers in the public service, can tell the house how it can be that a deputy minister, namely the Queen's Printer, learned from another deputy minister that his position had been abolished.

**Mr. Speaker:** This is argumentative.

[English]

**COMBINES****SUGGESTED INVESTIGATION OF INCREASED LUMBER PRICES**

**Mr. P. M. Mahoney (Calgary South):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the steadily worsening situation in respect of lumber prices and supply, which has seen all prices increase drastically and some prices more than double between February 1968 and February 1969, which is having a disastrous inflationary effect on housing costs particularly, and the stability of the construction industry generally, will the minister consider recommending that the Combines Investigation Branch investigate the lumber industry?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Well, Mr. Speaker, the Director of Investigation and Research

[Mr. Fortin.]

under the Combines Investigation Act maintains a scrutiny of all significant price movements, and in the event significant price movements indicate an offence under the Combines Investigation Act the Director has an obligation to prosecute or investigate under that act. Also the task force on housing—

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

**Mr. Basford:** Hon. members opposite do not seem interested in an answer. The task force on housing also made reference to certain practices in the housing industry, to which they wanted to draw our attention. My officials are communicating directly with the officials of the task force. So far as the general subject is concerned, if anyone has any evidence that increasing lumber prices are in violation of the Combines Investigation Act I would be happy—

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

**INDIAN AFFAIRS****THE PAS, MAN.—ADMINISTRATION OF HEALTH SERVICES**

**Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Arising out of the reply of the minister on Monday last to the question of the hon. member for Churchill concerning the incident with regard to the health facilities for Indians at The Pas, Manitoba, would the minister say whether the lady administrator of the Indian health services was immediately and peremptorily removed from her post? If so, has the department conducted any investigation to ascertain whether this action was correct and fair?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, the Indian community there indicated they did not have confidence in the particular person to whom the hon. member refers. I believe I interpreted the representation of the hon. member for Churchill to be that he requested action be taken in this regard, in order that the picketing outside the health facility there would stop.

The government and officials of my department looked into the situation and came to the conclusion that the person in question should not turn up for work, as she no longer enjoyed the confidence of the Indian community. We are endeavouring to make other