

INFLATION—RESTRAINT ON WAGES AND RESTRAINT ON OTHER FORMS OF INCOME

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): A supplementary question. Was the Chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission expressing government policy when he told the officials of the Canadian Labour Congress that if they would co-operate—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have to interrupt the hon. member. The hon. member knows that the rules do not allow him to ask whether a statement made outside of this House by an official is government policy. The hon. member can ask the question directly without reference to the statement.

Mr. Orlikow: I will repeat my question. Can the Minister of Finance state whether the government is working on policies which will put tighter limits on the incomes of executives, professional people, stockholders and real estate operators in line with the policy of restraint on wages?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): That is a pretty broad question, Mr. Speaker. It deals with a great many matters. The government is, of course, studying the reasonableness of charges, etc., by all groups. Indeed, the Prices and Incomes Commission at their conference received certain assurances from certain groups mentioned by the hon. member.

Mr. Orlikow: A supplementary question. In view of the often expressed views of the Canadian Labour Congress that the policies of the government are aimed directly at them, is the minister prepared to make a statement indicating how forms of income other than wages can be restrained at the same time wages are restrained?

Mr. Benson: A good many statements have been made over the past few months with respect to this question. I will be glad to consider the question raised by the hon. member.

[Translation]

FINANCE

INTEREST RATE ON RECENT GOVERNMENT BOND ISSUE

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Finance.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Would he tell the House why the government is putting on the market \$525 million worth of bonds at interest rates varying between 6.58 and 7.49 per cent?

Would he also tell the House why the government could not have redeemed the bonds becoming due on July 1st with the magnificent budget surpluses, in order to reduce our national debt?

Mr. Speaker: The member will admit, I am sure, that his interesting question is rather argumentative. I doubt that it is in order.

[English]

DRUGS

LEDAIN COMMISSION INTERIM REPORT—TYPE OF INQUIRY INTO LEAK

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): My question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact it was stated yesterday an inquiry is being conducted with reference to the LeDain Commission Report leak, I ask the minister who is conducting the inquiry? Which personnel are conducting what type of inquiry?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): The agency that will conduct the inquiry has not yet been decided.

Mr. Stanfield: Don't hurry!

Mr. Munro: I expect that decision will be made prior to the end of the week, Mr. Speaker. In the interval, I wish to advise that I and my staff are conducting preliminary investigations to ascertain the presence of all copies of the report. We have just about completed the record of where they are.

Mr. Woolliams: A supplementary question. I was wondering if the minister was having trouble with his conscience. This is an inquiry. We are entitled to know how many of his staff are looking into this, what they are doing and who they are contacting.

Mr. Munro: Mr. Speaker, two of my staff are contacting each and every one who has received a copy of the report in order to identify the location of these copies. This type of study is now going on.

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): My supplementary question relates to the very frank disclosure made earlier today by the Minister of Labour. Will the Minister of National Health and Welfare make a similar disclosure in order to end all the uncertainty—