June 1, 1970

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

ACCESS FOR HANDICAPPED PERSONS—MEET-ING OF APPROVED STANDARDS

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): I have a question for the Minister of Public Works. In view of the need for our handicapped citizens, especially those confined to wheelchairs, to have proper access both to all our public buildings and to their facilities, will all federal public buildings' specifications include those standards which have been approved in the national building code, supplement No. 7, entitled "Building Standards for the Handicapped".

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's question might well be placed on the Order Paper.

Mr. Harding: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RELIEF OF STARVATION IN BRAZIL

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): In view of the absence from the House of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, may I direct my question to the Prime Minister. In light of reports that some 200,000 people are starving in a state of Brazil, has the government offered any food aid to this unfortunate country or is it its intention to offer any food aid to help in this very serious situation?

Mr. Speaker: It seems to me that the hon. member's question was asked a few days ago, possibly last Thursday or Friday.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INFLATION—DISCUSSIONS WITH ORGANIZED LABOUR ON VOLUNTARY WAGE RESTRAINT

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): My question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the critical importance of the role of labour in the government's program of price restraints, is the minister having continuing talks with labour leaders on these matters?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Dinsdale: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister delegated this responsibility to his colleague, the Minister of Labour?

Mr. Basford: No, Mr. Speaker. The Prices and Incomes Commission endeavoured to obtain from labour some form of agreement Inquiries of the Ministry

on a restraint program to supplement the program that is working with regard to prices. So far that effort has been unsuccessful.

FREEING OF DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE— EFFECT ON PENDING GRAIN SALES

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): My question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Will his announcement of the unpegging of the Canadian dollar, so far as the minister has knowledge, have an adverse effect on any pending sales of grain?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker. I will have to inquire from my colleague, the minister in charge of the Wheat Board.

FREEING OF DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE— MEASURES TO OFFSET EFFECT ON WESTERN FARMERS

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): In view of the fact that the International Grains Arrangement created some difficulty for western farmers and as the freeing of the dollar is likely to have the same effect, can the minister tell the House if it is the intention of the government to put a floor price on Canadian wheat or to counterbalance in any way the effect on the western farmer of the introduction of a floating exchange rate?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): I will have to take this matter up with my colleague who reports for the Wheat Board. What this means is that Canadians will get more for their products that are sold abroad, including wheat.

FREEING OF DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE— EFFECT ON EXPORT FISH PRICES

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance. Would the minister be kind enough to give the House the same undertaking that he gave the previous speaker and take this matter up with the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry because as of today fish prices have gone up in the United States?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): I am not familiar with what happened to fish prices in the United States.

Mr. McGrath: They are 5 per cent higher than they were on Friday.

Mr. Benson: So Canadians will get more money for their fish.

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