Inquiries of the Ministry

(Translation):

FINANCE

SIGNATURE ON CANADIAN DOLLAR BILLS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gerard Chapdelaine (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance or, in his absence, to his parliamentary secretary. I have in my hand a \$1 bill, dated 1954, and signed by Mr. Louis Rasminsky, the present governor of the Bank of Canada-

Mr. Speaker: Order. I must tell the hon. member that during his absence, while he was a member of a parliamentary delegation, a similar question was answered at least twice.

(Text):

TRADE

TOBACCO—INQUIRY AS TO MARKETING OF SURPLUS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. F. Whelan (Essex South): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. What progress has been made in the marketing of surplus tobacco in Canada?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the hon. member will recognize that his question should go on the order paper. It is not something that should be asked on orders of the day.

Mr. Whelan: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, this is a very urgent problem in our area, due to the unemployment of 1,000 people.

Mr. Speaker: I agree that the problem may be urgent in certain areas, but whether the information is urgently required at this moment is another question.

[Later:]

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. What has he done about the lay-offs of tobacco workers in Essex South?

Mr. Speaker: Order. What I said previously would apply if the question were asked in respect of various regions. I realize that these matters are important in certain constituencies. However, in so far as obtaining the information at this time is concerned, I think we can go on to something else.

TRANSPORT

LIFE JACKETS-REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF UNSAFE PRODUCTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parkdale): Mr.

officials of his department to remove all unsafe life jackets from the Canadian market.

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): No. Mr. Speaker, because I do not think that proposal makes any sense. Of course we cannot police all life jackets in Canada; it would be just impossible to try to find them all. I think the policy we have at the present time is a sensible one, and we intend to carry it on.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We are now getting into argument. The answer was quite an argumentative one.

Mr. Haidasz: May I ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Ask it and we will see.

Mr. Haidasz: I would like to ask the Minister of Transport whether he would instruct his officials to investigate the accusations brought forth by the jury during a coroner's inquest in Toronto last summer, that there are unsafe life jackets distributed in Toronto.

Mr. Balcer: Mr. Speaker, I think my hon. friend was not in the house the other day when I made a statement on this matter. With regard to the very sad case that occurred last summer, the life jacket involved was old; it had been torn and repaired, and it was left in a soggy condition and deteriorated. But, as I indicated the other day, our policy in these matters is to educate people and approve certain types of life jackets so we can protect the public and at the same time give a chance to industry.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING CONTROL AND REGULATION OF CERTAIN DRUGS

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare) moved the third reading of Bill No. C-3, to amend the Food and Drugs Act.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Adopté; carried.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

ATLANTIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

PROVISION FOR DEFINITION OF DUTIES, APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS, ETC.

On the order: Government orders:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to establish an Atlantic development board and to Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of define the duties thereof, to provide for the appoint-Transport whether he has yet ordered the ment of the chairman and other members of the

[Mr. Balcer.]