

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): Can we expect a statement tomorrow?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Vegreville on a supplementary question, to be followed by the hon. member for New Westminster on a further supplementary, and then perhaps one or two last questions.

Mr. Mazankowski: Can the Minister of Agriculture indicate to the House when he will be making an announcement to the House and the country regarding the measures the government will undertake to bring about some order, stability and confidence in the beef industry in Canada?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I think that the old answer will suit—soon.

* * *

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

ACQUISITION OF MACDONALD TOBACCO COMPANY BY R. J. REYNOLDS COMPANY—POSSIBILITY OF RETROACTIVE LEGISLATION

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, again my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and is supplementary to the one I asked previously. In view of the fact the government was successful in respect of the Home Oil and Denison Mines transactions but has not been successful in respect of the takeover of this very important Canadian industry, will he now advise the House whether he has indicated to the R. J. Reynolds people that the government will introduce retroactive legislation to cover this takeover?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, in the two cases the hon. member mentioned, Denison Mines and Home Oil, neither transaction had been completed. As to the question of retroactivity, the government does not intend to introduce retroactive legislation.

* * *

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

ADVERTISEMENTS FOR SALE OF HOUSES IN TORONTO AREA—CONTRACTS WHEREBY BUILDER CAN CHANGE PRICE AND MORTGAGE TERMS

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Is he aware that advertisements in newspapers in respect of the sale of new homes in Toronto indicate a fixed price for these homes, but when buyers go to purchase the homes they are told they cannot in fact buy the homes and that all they can buy is a reservation on a home under a contract which says that the sale price—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member resume his seat. I hesitate to interrupt the hon. member for Mississauga, but I would request him to ask his ques-

Oral Questions

tion as we are running short of time. The hon. member knows he cannot read a contract but should ask his question directly.

Mr. Blenkarn: I apologize to you, Sir, but I had almost finished what I had to say. Let me go back so I can put the information to the minister in order to find out whether he is aware of this matter.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should try to ask his question without conveying information. I am sure the hon. member can ask his question so that we can get on with the question period.

Mr. Blenkarn: Mr. Speaker, is the minister aware that reservations are now being given to purchasers instead of clean, outright sales and that these reservations allow the builder or developer to change the price, mortgage terms and everything else unilaterally?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have not yet seen these advertisements, and I thank my hon. friend for bringing this to my attention. I will see that they are looked into under the provisions of the misleading advertising section of the Combines Investigation Act.

* * *

GRAIN

REQUEST BY WHEAT BOARD THAT ADDITIONAL RAILWAY CARS BE PURCHASED FOR MOVEMENT OF PRODUCT

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. Mention was made in the throne speech of the importance of Canadian grain rail transportation capabilities. I should like to ask in this regard whether the government is now prepared to look at and deal with the request from the Canadian Wheat Board that additional hopper cars or rolling stock for grain movement be purchased?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, we are looking at this specific request along with many other measures to bring the transportation system forward to the point that we can assure the delivery of the grain which can be produced in the prairie region.

● (1200)

Mr. Murta: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member may ask a supplementary, after which we will proceed with the business for today.

Mr. Murta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for permitting me to ask one short supplementary. Since the minister and his officials have been looking at these proposals for some time now, can he give any indication when there will be any positive word, one way or the other, on the purchase of additional rolling stock for grain transportation?

Mr. Lang: We have been dealing more urgently with the immediate situation. The purchase of additional hopper