

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has not answered the question. When does the government expect to make known its views on the recommendations in the third report—

Mr. Trudeau: That is not what you asked.

Mr. Hees: Yes, I did. I asked first of all—Mr. Speaker, I will ask my question again. Does the government expect to introduce at this session legislation based on the recommendations in the third report of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism—

Mr. Trudeau: That is what you asked.

Mr. Hees:—which has been in the hands of the government for several weeks and which I feel sure members of the government have studied very hard. Can we have an answer, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hees: Then may I ask another question—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has asked a question, and I understand that the hon. member for Annapolis Valley has a supplementary.

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Yes, Mr. Speaker, and again it is to the Prime Minister. I hope he will come down out of the clouds and off the ski slopes to answer my question. In his statement on December 19 last the Prime Minister said that after he had reviewed the third report of the commission he would make a statement to the House on motions. Is he considering making a statement and when will it be made?

Mr. Trudeau: I am not certain.

Mr. Hees: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is it not true that the government has decided to shelve this whole report because it is a little too hot to handle?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**INFLATION—MONETARY AND FISCAL POLICIES AND UNEMPLOYMENT**

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister. Arising out of a press conference which he held, according to my information, on December 22 last I would like to ask the

Prime Minister whether it is now government policy to pursue monetary and fiscal policies that will result in an unemployment rate of 6 per cent across the country which, of course, would mean a much higher rate of unemployment in some parts of the country?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has asked the question in such a way that it is difficult for the Chair to accept it procedurally. He has asked merely for a statement of government policy. I would think the question as asked in this way is not in order. Perhaps it might be rephrased.

Mr. Lewis: May I first ask the Prime Minister whether his reported statement that the government is prepared to have an unemployment rate as high as 6 per cent was a statement of government policy?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Not of policy, Mr. Speaker. It is something we hope will not happen but it is something that might happen if the private sector does not combat inflation as vigorously as the federal government has.

Mr. Lewis: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, following upon the answer which the Prime Minister gave. Is he stating to the House that the government will not change its policies even though the unemployment rate may go up to 6 per cent?

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the Prime Minister's concern about getting the co-operation of the private sector of the economy, may I ask whether or not his government is prepared to accede to the request of the United Steelworkers of Canada that a public inquiry be held into the increase in the price of steel, which they claim is completely unwarranted and unjustified?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, if I may answer that question, it is quite clear that there will be a public inquiry when the report of the Prices and Incomes Commission is referred to the committee. The motion for the setting up of that committee is on the order paper and I hope it will be debated very soon so that the committee can be set up and can consider the report.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): As a further supplementary question, will the inquiry by the Prices and