

Inquiries of the Ministry

POWER

MINAS BASIN—DISPOSITION OF FEASIBILITY STUDY

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Will the house be advised before the summer recess on the feasibility study of Minas Basin tidal power, or will this not be done until the fall?

Mr. R. J. Orange (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I will take this question as notice and bring it to the attention of the minister on his return.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

USE OF FUND IN RETIREMENT PLAN

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Is he aware of the illegal use to which Devco is putting the U.I.C. fund?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): No, Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any illegality.

Mr. MacInnis: As a supplementary question, would the minister take a good close look at what is being done by Devco so he may realize that what Devco is doing is denied the individual, and therefore it is illegal for them to use the fund in this way?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is making a representation to the minister—

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: I had not quite finished my sentence. Perhaps the hon. member would allow me to add—which the hon. member must assume has been noted by the Minister.

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am trying to obtain information in this house in some way, shape or form in order that the miners in Cape Breton who have been forcibly retired by a Crown company will get justice from a fund into which they have been paying, some of them for as many as 29 years. That Crown company is illegally using the fund. If the fund is not being illegally used, why is it that individuals are being denied the same use of the fund?

[Mr. Munro.]

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand: Mr. Speaker, if the miners are of such an opinion and if what is being done is illegal, they certainly have a right of appeal before the courts.

[English]

Mr. MacInnis: As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, does the minister consider it part of the just society that a miner who is forced out of work cannot afford to go to the courts, especially with the way things are under the government? Big deal—go to the courts!

HOUSING

STEPS TO ASSURE STEADY FLOW OF MORTGAGE MONEY

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the minister in charge of housing. In view of housing statistics indicating a drop of 31.7 per cent in housing investment by non-banking lenders, what steps does the minister intend to take to ensure a steady flow of mortgage moneys?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, we are encouraged by the reaction of the lenders in putting more money into residential mortgages. In the same light I am glad to direct the attention of the house to the fact that housing starts are very much up over the same period last year.

DRUGS

PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL ON COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO NON-MEDICAL USE

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It is based on the type of distinguished men who will make up the committee which is to be established to obtain accurate information on the drug problem. Only one of these gentlemen is an experienced specialist in drug addiction. Has the minister given any consideration to adding specialists in drug addiction to this committee?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member had been listening when the announcement was made he would have realized it was made quite clear that the people on this committee would represent the various disciplines such as psychiatry, sociology, psychology, the legal profession and so on. This is not only a medical problem. It was with that in mind that the committee was set