

Inquiries of the Ministry

that the program does not preclude some assistance to western Canada, in view of the very serious situation that exists there?

Mr. Trudeau: When I said that we would have to make cuts in various programs I did not indicate which programs would be affected. Of course I will announce this publicly in due course. However I think we just received an example of what I said previously. If we want to make cuts everywhere except where farmers, fishermen, urban dwellers and old age pensioners are affected, it will be difficult to fight inflation; this is a perfect example of the vested interests in the opposition.

Mr. Gleave: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the Prime Minister, in his approach to the economy in this respect, to have regard for the fact that there are certain sectors which are not contributing to inflation and which at this time are actually depressed.

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker,—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. I should like to ask him whether these drastic cuts will affect his personal staff, which has recently been increased.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. I asked him yesterday, as may be seen at page 8466 of *Hansard*, if he was considering the suggestions made by the Ralliement créditiste, and his reply was, and I quote:

—that all those who know about such things agree that the suggestions coming from the creditiste system are, essentially, of an inflationary nature—

In view of the fact that he has just said that we are in an inflationary period, is the Prime Minister suggesting that what we have now in Canada is a creditiste system?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not think that this question is in order.

[English]

Mr. Barney Danson (York North): Will the Prime Minister assure the house that no reduction will be proposed in the estimates for the office of the Leader of the Opposition

[Mr. Gleave.]

who, according to news stories, even now is having trouble in retaining his staff?

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): In view of the Prime Minister's announcement of the urgent need for cuts in spending, will consideration be given to the possibility of cutting back the purchase of CF 5's for which the Minister of National Defence has found it difficult to find a useful role in Canada's defence plan?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to hon. members that perhaps we have reached the moment at which we might go on to another subject. The hon. member for Greenwood must realize, or at least this is my understanding of what we are discussing now, that this is a situation which will apply in 1970-71, so perhaps questions on this could be put by hon. members in the course of the next year.

WATER RESOURCES**POLLUTION OF LAKE ERIE FROM UNITED STATES SOURCES**

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Before doing so, Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to say how delighted we are to see him back in the house and in good health. We trust he will continue to progress and will be with us for a long time.

My question arises from a statement made by an official of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources regarding the deterioration of the pollution situation on the Great Lakes, particularly Lake Erie, and a statement to the effect that more than half the pollutants are coming from firms on the United States side of the line. I want to ask the minister whether his department or any other department of the government is making representations to the United States authorities in an attempt to stop this very great pollution that is taking place, before the situation gets completely out of hand.

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): First of all, Mr. Speaker, may I thank the hon. member and all members of the house for their kind welcome back. Now that Canada has a team in the major leagues I think it would behoove me