

Inquiries of the Ministry

commission. The revision of the Combines Investigation Act will commence after I receive the report of the Economic Council of Canada which, as I told the house the other day, I hope to receive in June. So I do not see that it would be appropriate at this time to appoint a special committee for the purpose suggested by the hon. member.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since it is sometimes a custom to commemorate long awaited events of national importance, is it the intention of the minister to recommend the issuance of a stamp or in some other way commemorate the final appointment of the commission, when it is announced?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

FLOODS**TRAIL, B.C.—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON FINANCIAL AID**

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. In view of the fact that it is almost three weeks since the disastrous flood hit the Trail area, and in view of the fact that there is increasing urgency for the committee dealing with flood disasters to know what financial resources will be available to them for rehabilitation purposes, may I again ask the minister whether the house can expect a statement this week on the federal government's contribution to the disaster fund?

Mr. Speaker: It seems to me that the hon. member asked the same question yesterday, but in all honesty I forget what the answer was.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): There was no answer.

Mr. Speaker: It might be better to allow the question today.

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I expect that a reply from the government will be available shortly.

HEALTH AND WELFARE**SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL DOCTORS**

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. On [Mr. Basford.]

March 19 of this year I asked a question which in the absence of the minister that day his parliamentary secretary took as notice. The question as it appears at page 6815 of *Hansard* was as follows:

In view of some divergence of views on the medical manpower situation, the apparent jungle of indecision and the extreme urgency of this problem if medical schools are to operate during the summer months, would the minister state whether he has discussed this urgent problem with the ministers concerned in the provincial governments?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member is no doubt aware, we have constituted several task forces which are manned by highly competent personnel from both the provinces and the federal government, to study this very question. I expect their recommendations within the next couple of months.

Mr. Rynard: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wish to ask the minister whether this task force will bring in a report soon enough for the schools to go into operation.

Mr. Munro: I think that the question of medical schools operating in the summer is not dependent on what the task force recommends. The schools are there and are manned by personnel now. If they decide as a matter of policy to operate this summer, I do not see anything to stop them.

Mr. Rynard: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I just want to suggest to the minister that they cannot operate without funds.

COMBINES**HOCKEY—ACTION TO ABOLISH RESERVE CLAUSE**

Mr. Ray Perrault (Burnaby-Seymour): I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the fact that the task force on sport has made certain proposals with respect to the National Hockey League and its reserve clause, can the minister tell the house whether he is considering action under the Combines Investigation Act which would serve to abolish the reserve clause?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, of course the task force report on sport was given to my colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, who is in charge of