

Inquiries of the Ministry

conference will prompt the government to consider the real problem of Canadians: the consumer's chronic lack of purchasing power?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt whether this question may be allowed. The minister might ponder the hon. member's proposition.

INFLATION—ACTION TO SEEK CO-OPERATION OF UNIONS

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a supplementary question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

As labour leaders did not participate in the discussions with the Prices and Incomes Commission, what steps does the Canadian government intend to take to initiate talks with union leaders with a view to having them take part in this voluntary restraint program?

[*English*]

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): I would hope, as I am sure all Canadians would, that the union movement in Canada will be as helpful as possible.

[*Later:*]

[*Translation:*]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question following that one I directed earlier to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Are there at present consultations or meetings between officials of his department and the unions in order to discuss the voluntary restraint program suggested by the Prices and Incomes Commission a few days ago?

[*English*]

Mr. Basford: For the present, the Chairman of the commission is meeting with the government with regard to the implications of the statement which was made last night. I do not think a new initiative will be taken along the lines suggested by the hon. member until at least the federal-provincial conference is over.

LABOUR RELATIONS

FORT GARRY HOTEL STRIKE—USE OF OTHER PERSONNEL

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I had one question I wanted to put to two ministers, and thus save time. The Minister of Labour and the Minister of Transport were the ministers I had in mind. But in the absence of the Minister of

[*Mr. Caouette.*]

Labour, may I direct my question to the Minister of Transport, and perhaps there could be some discussion about it between him and his colleague. In view of the fact that there is a legal strike in process at the Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg, and in view of the fact that management is flying in personnel from other parts of Canada, which seems to be an effort to break the strike, will the minister and his colleague let us know whether it is government policy to engage in strike-breaking of this kind?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member may realize that his question contains allegations of some kind. However, the minister may wish to reply to the substance.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I shall be glad to look into the matter. This is the first intimation I have had concerning it.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Will the minister discuss this with his colleague the Minister of Labour because, after all, both departments are certainly concerned?

Mr. Jamieson: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

VANCOUVER LONGSHOREMEN'S STRIKE—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON SITUATION

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the Minister of Labour will be back shortly, or whether he himself will report to the House now or delegate somebody else to do so concerning what is going on in the port of Vancouver? I know that hon. members to my left are sympathetic to the situation in which the western farmers find themselves, but the ports are still closed and I think we are entitled to get an answer.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The minister is due back in the House on Monday, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Woolliams: Rome burns while the Prime Minister fiddles.

TRANSPORT

APPLICATION BY GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY TO BUILD RIGHT-OF-WAY TO HAUL COAL

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): My question is for the Minister of Transport. I should like to ask the minister whether his attention and the attention of the government have been drawn to the application of a