

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): In view of the answer given by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, would the Prime Minister now advise the House whether he and the government are prepared to make public the LeDain report on the non-medical use of drugs in view of the remarkable series of public hearings at which individuals with practical, scientific and psychological knowledge and experience produced opinions and evidence upon which certain recommendations were made which are gradually leaking to the public and the press and are becoming known anyway?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's question sounds to the Chair more like a speech. However, perhaps the Prime Minister might like to reply to the hon. member's representation.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I cannot be very helpful. I note the representation of the hon. member, but I agree with what the minister just said that he received the report very recently in both languages. With my agreement he will bring it to a cabinet meeting in the very immediate future. At that time the cabinet will decide whether it should be published before a government statement of its position is made or whether the government position regarding the report should be made public at the time we table the report. However, I can assure the hon. member that the cabinet will be considering it in the very immediate future.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**INFLATION—BANK PROFITS AND PRICE STABILIZATION POLICY**

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): May I direct a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs regarding the financial statement of the Bank of Montreal which shows that for the six month period ended April 30 their profits increased some 27.6 per cent over last year, and last year, of course, showed a very substantial profit increase. In view of the fact that the Bank of Montreal, the Toronto-Dominion Bank and the Bank of Nova Scotia have shown substantial increases averaging out at some 22 per cent, are the minister and his department or the Prices and Incomes Commission looking into these very large profit increases to see whether or not they comply with the government's price stabilization policy?

[Mr. Munro.]

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): The banks have complied with the criteria established in February as to service charges, interest rates, etc., and there is no evidence that they have not. If there were any such indications, the Prices and Incomes Commission would, of course, be interested in examining any breach of those criteria. In so far as the general performance of Canada's chartered banks is concerned, that is a question which could be more properly directed to the Minister of Finance who has the responsibility for the Bank Act and to whom the Inspector General of Banks reports.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): In view of the fact that the criteria that affect the banks require them only to keep the deposit and lending rates at a constant ratio and in view of the fact that these profits would indicate that these criteria are no longer adequate, is the minister prepared to reconsider the criteria which are used with respect to the banks in carrying out or policing a policy of price stabilization?

Mr. Basford: The commission is constantly interested in seeing that the criteria are as effective as possible, but of late it has been directing most of its attention to setting some criteria on the cost and wage side of the economy for the people for whom the hon. member usually speaks so irresponsibly.

[Translation]

MANPOWER**PROTEST BY MONTREAL AIRPORT CUSTOMS OFFICERS AGAINST EMPLOYMENT OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, I shall put my question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Considering that customs officers at the Montreal international airport are working to rules to protest against the hiring of university students for jobs which, according to them, require ten years' experience, could not the minister intervene to make the customs officers remember that a few years back they were inexperienced students themselves and were proud to find a summer job?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will recognize that it is very difficult to accept the question as asked. Perhaps he would like to rephrase his question.