

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

and given this matter very serious thought. Undoubtedly the matter raised by the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby is one of great importance and one of serious concern to all hon. members. This does not mean, however, that it is acceptable under the provisions of Standing Order 26. In my view this rule is not intended to apply to circumstances such as those described by the hon. member in his proposed motion. Although he has used the words "sudden rash of price increases", the motion seeks to deal basically with a situation that has obviously existed for some time. This is evidenced by the number of questions which have been asked in the House for some weeks now on every one of the topics alluded to by the hon. member. The Chair must rule, therefore, that the question cannot be put to the House at this time.

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD****LABOUR RELATIONS****INCO STRIKE—ALLEGED DISCOURAGEMENT OF QUICK SETTLEMENT**

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In light of the interview yesterday with the Chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission, will the minister say what department or agency of government discouraged a quick settlement of the Inco strike?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I watched the broadcast to which the hon. gentleman refers and I am not sure what his question has reference to.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, I think the question is clear enough. I asked the hon. minister whether he would say what department or agency of the government discouraged, privately or otherwise, a quick settlement of the Inco strike last summer.

**Mr. Basford:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to check the transcript of the broadcast as I am not aware of any department that intervened in the way the hon. member suggests.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, will the minister say whether the Prices and Incomes Commission in the course of this strike suggested any guidelines or limits of restraint within which the settlement should be made?

**Mr. Basford:** As I have explained before, and as was explained on the program to which the Leader of the Opposition made reference, the commission has been endeavouring to work out with private price and wage-makers in the country an acceptable formula of restraint.

[*Later:*]

**Mr. Stanfield:** Will the minister say categorically or will he not say categorically whether the government or an agency thereof discouraged settlement of the INCO strike last summer or, specifically, whether the government or an agency of the government suggested specific guidelines within which the company ought to try to settle the strike?

**Mr. Basford:** As I said, I will check the transcript of the broadcast. As I also said, I am not aware of any such action by the government but because of the hon. member's question I will check that.

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Will the minister accept this copy of the transcript and give his answer right away? I will send it to him.

[*Later:*]

**Mr. Basford:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. A while ago I was asked questions by the Leader of the Opposition and I have now been sent a copy of the transcript involved by the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings. I am very grateful, but it would seem to me the questions were based not on a quote from Dr. Young but on a question to him, not on an answer from him.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Hees:** Mr. Speaker, is the minister not aware that the question was not disagreed with by the chairman?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Hees:** In other words, he agreed with it.

**Mr. Speaker:** May I have the co-operation of the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings. I would think this is hardly a question of privilege and I do not think the matter should be pursued further. The hon. member may have an opportunity later to ask a supplementary question.

**Mr. Hees:** I was not speaking on the question of privilege, just a question of order. I