

first or second day when that debate takes place in the House?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will be dealing with the budget debate. I cannot commit the minister to speak but I understand that he proposes to take part tomorrow or Monday.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister give a commitment that the budget debate will continue long enough for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce to take part in it?

Mr. MacEachen: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hees: You should have seen the look big brother gave you when you said that.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

GRANT TO McCAIN FOODS LIMITED—REASON FOR OMISSION FROM REPORT—DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS AMONG PROVINCES

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Would the minister be good enough to give the House the reason why he did not report to parliament in his monthly report the grant of \$6.1 million to McCain Foods Limited of New Brunswick which was offered by his department on November 2, 1970, and accepted by the company on December 9, 1970?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, this question was put to me in the committee where I indicated that I would give a reply. I asked the officials of my department to conduct an inquiry, not merely on the McCain's Food case to which the hon. member for York-South has referred, but on all such cases which may have come up. The deputy minister is ready to report.

Mr. Speaker, I was to appear before the committee next week. However, as it will not be meeting then, I shall go there specially this afternoon to reply to the question.

[English]

Mr. Stanfield: You are getting evasive, the whole bunch of you.

Mr. Lewis: I am very glad to hear the minister say that he will appear this afternoon to answer questions. May I ask whether he has already had an investigation made into the very large proportion of grants under the Regional Development Incentives Act made so far this year which has gone to one province and the maldistribution of these grants across the country?

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Here again, Mr. Speaker, the question was put not to myself but, I believe, to my deputy

Inquiries of the Ministry

minister. He will attend the committee meeting this afternoon to supply the information requested.

Incidentally, Mr. Speaker, I attended three of the committee's eight meetings, and the deputy minister attended four.

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PENSIONS

OLD AGE SECURITY—STATEMENT OF QUEBEC SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER ON INCREASE—FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION OF PROVINCES

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister.

Last night, on television, the Quebec Social Affairs Minister appeared stunned to learn that the federal government intended to raise old age security pensions by \$15 for single people and \$50 for married couples.

Would the Prime Minister tell the House if the proposed increases will require the co-operation and financial contribution of the Canadian provinces. Will the provinces have to pay part of those increases?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): That is out of the question, Mr. Speaker; the increases will be paid out of the tax receipts of the Canadian government.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, has the Quebec Minister of Social Affairs been in touch with the federal government since these increases were announced?

As to the second question, although the Prime Minister tells us that such is not the case, I should like to ask him whether the provinces contribute to the guaranteed income supplement which is being paid to our senior citizens.

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker.

As to the second part of the question, there are no contributions made by the provinces, not even, for that matter, to the first portion of \$80. The provinces will not be called upon to contribute to the annual increase mentioned in the bill.

I think that I share the hon. member's feelings and I do not quite understand what the Province of Quebec is getting all excited about, if indeed it is.

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[English]

PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION

TERMINATION AT END OF JUNE—PLANS FOR REPLACEMENT

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. As we are only a month and a half away from the windup of the mandate of the Prices and Incomes Commission, could the Prime Minister advise the House what the government's plans are for replacing that body or does it intend simply to leave that field open?