

requisite provincial authority. Also, there have been provincial authorities which have attempted to provide for federal jurisdiction over matters of purely provincial interest.

I am sure hon. members will be delighted to know what the Superintendent of Insurance said in his report for the year ending March 31, 1972.

On December 17, 1970, the Minister of Finance and the appropriate authorities of the provinces having pension benefits legislation agreed to extend respective agreements indefinitely subject to the proviso that each party to the agreement can terminate the agreement by giving the other party three months' notice in writing.

This means that relationships between the federal government and provincial governments in this particular area are in very good hands indeed and that, for a change, instead of having to place all matters of jurisdiction under constant strain, with attack and counter-attack from each side, we have been able to work out a measure of co-operation and co-ordination.

In terms of the point raised by the hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Guay), the parliamentary secretary, concerning CNR and CPR pensions, a standing committee of the House of Commons received a reference from the House last year and conducted a fairly extensive investigation into the status of CNR and CPR plans in this respect.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** CN only.

**Mr. Reid:** I thank the hon. member. In the course of its hearing, the committee heard representations from Canadian Pacific which came before them to discuss investment policy followed by the CPR pension fund in order to compare and contrast it with that of the CNR pension fund.

I feel that the point raised by the hon. member for Fraser Valley West, that individuals who must subscribe to these pension plans do not have sufficient information, is certainly true. In my opinion, and that of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), if there is one constant gripe of employees of the CNR and CPR it is that they do not have enough information about their pension plans. Their particular grievance is not about the trust agreement; it is twofold—it is on the question of how that money is invested, and exactly what their pension rights are.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Their particular grievance now is that you have talked-out this bill.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** Order, please. I might say, this being my first experience in private members' hour this year, that, like some of the new members, it is perhaps good to listen to hon. members at this time because sometimes they are the best speakers in the House.

[Translation]

The hour provided for private members' business having expired, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

### *Food Prices Committee*

[English]

#### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

### GOVERNMENT ORDERS

#### FOOD PRICES

#### MOTION TO APPOINT SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE OF SENATE AND HOUSE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Gray:

That a special joint committee of the Senate and of the House of Commons be appointed to enquire into and make recommendations upon the trends in food prices in Canada and factors domestic and foreign which account for these trends;

That 20 members of the House of Commons to be designated by the House at a later date be the members of the special joint committee and that Standing Order 65(5) of the House of Commons be suspended in relation thereto;

That the said committee have power to send for persons, papers and records and examine witnesses; to sit during periods when the House stands adjourned; to report from time to time and to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be deemed advisable; to delegate to sub-committees all or any of their powers except the power to report direct to the House; to engage the services of counsel, accountants and such other clerical and technical personnel as may be deemed necessary and

That a message be sent to the Senate requesting that House to unite with this House for the above purpose, and to select if the Senate deems it advisable, some of its members to act on the proposed special joint committee.

**Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot):** Mr. Speaker, at five o'clock, along with others in the House, I was attempting to find some hope for those who need it most in the words of the motion placed before this House by the minister. If there is any glimmer of hope for any short-term relief for the housewife, the pensioner or the mothers of this nation, then I believe the minister will find the support he seeks. I seriously request him to look for that hope and not to hide behind this motion in the expectation that it will take the government out of the deep hole they have dug for themselves.

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, in rising to participate in this debate I welcome the motion before the House. I wish to remind hon. members that our party was in the forefront last session in attempting to get the government to do something about the increase in the cost of food. We wanted something done at that time because food prices were going up quite drastically. The government at that time did not listen to us. It was not until after the election of October 30 that the government decided to take the preliminary measure of establishing a committee to study the trend of increasing food prices in this country.

At the outset I wish to make it clear that I hope the committee will do more than study the increase in the price of food and will, indeed, make recommendations to the government upon which the government will act immediately. Our experience in the past has been that we