

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Perhaps the hon. member would like to ask this question of the minister responsible for Devco.

Mr. MacInnis: If the Prime Minister will examine the question I asked, he will see that the government move to give assurance that Devco carries out that portion of the legislation which compels them to look after the miners, is a question for the Prime Minister. If the Prime Minister would only realize that he is leading the government—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

FLOODS

TRAIL, B.C.—ACTION TO CONTROL EMERGENCY SITUATION

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Prime Minister. Last Friday I directed a question to the Prime Minister regarding federal assistance to the flood damaged city of Trail. At that time the Prime Minister indicated that later in the day he would be contacting both the Premier of British Columbia and the Mayor of Trail. May I inquire what assistance the federal government has offered to the city of Trail to assist in rehabilitation of the flooded areas?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I did answer these telegrams on Friday and I said that after we had further reports of the damage we would be prepared to discuss this matter with the relevant authorities.

Mr. Harding: May I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Public Works? Has the Department of Public Works any plans to assist in the rehabilitation of the Trail area? If so, would the minister indicate what has been done to date and what assistance, if any, his department can offer to the Trail area?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, as a result of a great number of representations, including the representations made by the hon. member for Okanagan-Boundary and others, a commitment was made by the Prime Minister that someone be sent to this area. The Department of Public Works has co-operated and Mr. Stevens has been to Trail, has now returned to Vancouver, and is making a report.

I have been in touch with the Mayor of Trail. When the report is received an

Inquiries of the Ministry

announcement will be made by the government as to its responsibility or otherwise. There are estimates of damage in the area of \$1 million or \$1½ million. In light of the fact there is provincial legislation covering such disasters, it might be construed this misfortune is within the financial capacity of the province of British Columbia.

FINANCE

SECURITIES COMMISSION—REQUEST FOR PROGRESS REPORT

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): My question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs on the subject of the proposed national securities commission. Will the minister advise whether he has made any progress since I last inquired about his negotiations with the provinces, or are these negotiations still stalled?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, discussions are continuing within my department, within the government, and with appropriate provincial officials.

COMMUNICATIONS

DISSEMINATION OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. My question is with regard to the statements made by the Secretary of State in London, Ontario, on Friday last, with reference to the methods of presentation of government propaganda. He said:

Nowadays you can leave the written press free if you can manipulate the radio and television facilities.

I ask the Secretary of State whether this is a statement of government policy in this area?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest to the hon. member the question as asked is argumentative and cannot be asked in that way at this time.

Mr. Simpson: In view of the fact that the Secretary of State is the minister responsible for one of the largest news media in Canada, the C.B.C., and is expressing opinions of this nature, does the Prime Minister intend—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is being argumentative and I suggest the matter should not be pursued.