

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. McGrath: A supplementary question, to ask the minister why he chose to make a statement on this subject outside the house at noon today instead of dealing with it on motions. Second, when may we expect a statement on salt codfish policy?

Mr. Davis: I hope to be able to make a statement on salt codfish policy tomorrow.

COMBINES**DRUGS—PRICE FIXING BY B.C. PHARMACISTS**

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): May I ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs a question? What action is the minister taking with regard to the request of the government of British Columbia for an investigation of a possible infringement of the combines legislation by the pharmacists of British Columbia in connection with the imposition of extra charges in the case of welfare recipients' prescriptions?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): I am not aware I have received any such request from the government of British Columbia, but I will check to see whether one has come in without my knowledge. I made some comments on this situation the other day in answer to a question.

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**INVITATION TO ATTEND PARIS EDUCATION MEETINGS**

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State.

Could he tell the house whether the government has been officially invited to the meeting of the Ministers of Education in Paris?

[English]

Mr. Speaker: While the matter is being considered—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Is the Secretary of State absent from the house, Mr. Speaker?

[Mr. Davis.]

[English]

Mr. Lamberi (Edmonton West): My question is to the Minister of Labour—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest the minister might be allowed to reply to the question asked by the hon. member for Champlain.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): The question was not directed to me, Mr. Speaker and I was therefore not quite sure whether I should reply. It was addressed to the Secretary of State. However, perhaps I ought to answer the question. The situation is this: Canada attended the Kinshasa conference as a full member, and incidentally took part in the decision of the conference to hold its second session in Paris. The arrangements arrived at between Ottawa and the provincial governments for Kinshasa worked well, and we have no reason to believe that the same arrangements cannot be applied for the second session; this was made clear last year. I do not think it would be helpful to comment on the suggestion that an attempt might be made to exclude Ottawa from the Paris meeting, other than to say I fail to see how it could be in the interests of any of the authorities concerned to adopt such a policy.

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): In view of Quebec's acceptance of the invitation and in view of Canada's representation at the first conference, is it the government's intention to send a representative, having regard to its declared commitment to assist French speaking African states?

Mr. Sharp: I thought my answer was quite clear. We do not need an invitation. We have already been invited.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a supplementary question.

Could the minister tell us who would represent Canada as Minister of Education at the Paris meeting?

[English]

Mr. Sharp: The arrangements were worked out with the Quebec government which was, I believe, quite satisfied, and I hope they can continue in Paris.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, could the—