

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Stanfield: In view of the fact that the increase of nearly 3 per cent already in this calendar year would amount to something approaching an emergency, I wonder whether the minister is prepared to review the methods he has adopted and enunciated to date, and consider mobilizing the country to adopt some kind of guideline policy to meet this grave situation.

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, I certainly intend to continue to review vigorously the policy of the government in this regard, and I would hope that the Leader of the Opposition would join with me in urging all Canadians to be modest in their demands on the economy, and not take more out of it than is being put in through increased productivity.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, as the cost of living now is increasing at a rate of 10 per cent per year, would the minister not agree that the policy which he put forward in his budget is completely ineffective in curtailing inflation, and that he should accept the suggestions put forward by members of the opposition and get something done about inflation.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the hon. member will agree that his supplementary is argumentative.

[Later:]

EXPEDITION IN PRESENTING ECONOMIC
COUNCIL REPORT ON COMBINES
AND PRICES

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to that posed by the Leader of the Opposition to the Prime Minister. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he would bring his considerable influence to bear on the Economic Council of Canada to expedite the report on combines and prices, in view of the seriousness of the increase in the cost of living index.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I thank the hon. member for assuming I have considerable influence on the Economic Council of Canada, but I do not have all that much influence.

GRAIN

BOX CARS REQUIRED FOR DELIVERY OF QUOTA

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Transport whether any special arrangements have been worked out with the railways, par-

[Mr. Benson.]

ticularly the C.P.R., so that extra box cars may be provided on C.P.R. lines to move grain, since many of the points are on a quota of two bushels and less and it is impossible to visualize how they can possibly meet the five bushel quota by the end of this month.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce was in Winnipeg earlier this week and held some discussions with regard to the transportation problem. I have also been in touch with the presidents of both railways and propose to invite them to Ottawa after the weekend for further discussions, to see whether we can do something along the lines the hon. member outlined.

RESEARCH

REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF SCIENCE
POLICY

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the President of the Treasury Board whether, in view of the fact the house will be sitting next week, he will make a statement on government science policy which he indicated a few days ago he might make if the house was still in session.

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): I repeat, Mr. Speaker, that I do not know that it would be a good idea to interrupt for this purpose the interesting debate that is going on.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask whether the government is giving consideration to the recommendations of the O.E.C.D., that the government appoint a minister responsible for all aspects of science policy priorities?

Mr. Drury: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

SUGGESTED REVISION OF MILK POLICY

Mr. André Fortin (Loebinière): Mr. Speaker, following my question yesterday, the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Agriculture said he wished to check on the figures I quoted, which I have sent to him. I should like today to put to him the following question.

In the light of the date supplied by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, would the