

*Price Stability*

Then follows a list of problems that the country has been facing for a number of years. Approximately a year and a half ago the minister set up this new department which was going to cure all these ills within a very short time. Therefore, I ask the minister: Before we set up this kind of committee, would he tell the House exactly what he expects the committee to do above and beyond those responsibilities which fall within the minister's own department? What can the committee do, how will it be doing it, and what effect will it have?

I cannot see how a joint parliamentary committee that would sit on a year around basis will solve what the minister has pointed out is a very serious problem. I do not know what the committee's main function will be. Is it going to call before it representatives from General Motors in order to find out next year's price of Cadillacs? What is this committee expected to do that could not be done by the department as presently constituted?

For example, there is the service and information branch, and the research branch. I

presume that the research branch could research costs and potential price increases in any given industry. I suppose that the operations branch is responsible for the administration of the other smaller branches that are spread across the country. The function of the compliance branch, I presume, is to see that when the government asks a corporation not to increase the price of its commodities in a given year, the corporation so complies.

If that is the case, why do we need a joint parliamentary committee to do the work that these various departments should in fact be doing? We also have the standards branch, in regard to which I ask the same question: Does the minister expect the joint parliamentary committee to call before it representatives of manufacturers from across the country and give to them certain standards that they should follow? That is not the responsibility of a committee. I can see very little purpose in approving this resolution.

I see it is six o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

At six o'clock the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.

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