

HEALTH AND WELFARE

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION ON SMOKING

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I should like to direct to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is it his intention to produce at the present session of the House legislation on smoking, health and advertising?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, Mr. Speaker. This area of subject matter is on the proposed list of legislation, if it can be reached at this session.

* * *

LABOUR CONDITIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT—MEASURES TO STIMULATE ECONOMY

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance whether the measure he proposed yesterday with regard to stimulating the economy is based on the assumption that the seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment will remain the same or is this the policy of the government even in the event of the seasonally adjusted rate increasing?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): What I spoke of yesterday was not a single measure but rather a number of measures the government has taken which are very significant over the period since last March in order to stimulate the economy generally. The measure I announced yesterday for the first time was simply another measure and rather small compared with the vast measures the government has taken since last March.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I certainly agree that the measure taken is rather small, but I am asking the Minister of Finance whether he is prepared to take additional measures if the seasonally adjusted rate of unemployment increases? When the next figure is produced, which I predict will be higher, will the minister produce additional measures?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I hesitate to suggest to any hon. member in the circumstances that the question asked is hypothetical, but I would think that procedurally I would have to make that ruling.

* * *

HOUSING

HAMILTON—AMOUNT OF MONEY FOR LOW-INCOME HOMES

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question which I should like to direct to the Minister without Portfolio in charge of housing. Unfortunately he is not here this afternoon, but I should like to place it on the record and have it taken as notice. It comes about as a result of information I received to the

Inquiries of the Ministry

effect that some \$18 million which had been earmarked for the city of Hamilton and district for the purpose of low-income housing has been reduced by some 60 per cent. I should like the minister to confirm or deny this statement. If it is a fact that the amount has been reduced, I should like the minister to give the House the detailed reasons for the reduction. If it has not been, I would like to have the assurance of the minister that the \$18 million earmarked for housing in the city of Hamilton and district will be available until the time of expiration as set out in the criteria announced by the minister.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I assume the hon. member wanted the question to be noted by someone on behalf of the government.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have to remind the hon. member that it was not quite correct form to ask that a statement be confirmed or denied, but I will take it that his question has been asked directly and noted.

Mr. Alexander: If anybody on the other side is in a position to answer that question, Mr. Speaker, I would certainly appreciate it.

* * *

AGRICULTURE

SUPPLYING OF RAPESEED FREE OF ERUCIC ACID TO FARMERS

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. In light of the importance of increased sales of rapeseed to our western economy and in view of the high level of erucic acid in present samples of rapeseed oil, which is being frowned on by the federal Department of Health, what steps is the Department of Agriculture taking to assure farmers of an ample supply of rapeseed low in erucic acid?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we are taking some steps now to increase rapidly the available supply of Oro seed which is not only low in erucic acid but registers zero in content of that acid.

* * *

HOUSING

NURSING HOMES—DECISION RESPECTING USE OF LIMITED DIVIDEND HOUSING LEGISLATION

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address my question to the same anonymous person who took note of the question put by the hon. member for Hamilton West. Would the minister responsible for housing indicate to the House when a policy decision may be expected with respect to the use of limited dividend housing legislation for the construction of nursing homes?