

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what the hon. member means by a special meeting. We talk about matters quite regularly and constantly, and there is no such thing as a special meeting.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, may I have an answer to this question—

Mr. Hees: On a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member rises on a point of order.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, you have pointed out quite rightly to the members of the House how a great deal of time is wasted in dissertations between ministers and members, just as we have had this morning, but may I point out that this is because the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and many others simply refuse to give straight answers and we have to keep pounding at them in order to try to get some kind of answer out of them.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North.

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POLLUTION

EXTINGUISHING OF SPRINGHILL MINE DUMP FIRE

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Is he in a position to report to the House on what progress is being made in extinguishing the mine dump fire at Springhill, Nova Scotia, following his meeting with the Minister of Mines from Nova Scotia regarding this matter?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I have not been brought up to date in the last day or two on this question, but I will be glad to take it as notice and report to the hon. member.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the hon. member for Marquette has a supplementary to a previous question, and he will be recognized now.

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GRAIN

WHEAT—ASSURANCE THAT PRICE IN SALE TO RUSSIA NOT BELOW COST OF PRODUCTION

Mr. Craig Stewart (Marquette): Mr. speaker, my question is directed to the minister who reports for the Canadian Wheat Board. Can the minister assure the House that the wheat sale to Russia was not made at below production costs to western farmers, as has been the case with barley sales recently?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I take issue with the hon. mem-

[Mr. Lundrigan.]

ber's statement that barley sales recently have been made below the cost of production. In answer to a question a moment ago I said that the actual prices are not revealed but that the most recent prices being quoted by the Wheat Board are public knowledge, and the hon. member can draw his own conclusions.

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HOUSING

IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC HOUSING GUIDELINES—MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the minister in charge of housing. When will he be meeting with his provincial counterparts to discuss the implementation of the public housing guidelines which were issued by him about a year ago?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, there have been several meetings since that public housing guidelines statement was issued. There has been considerable progress toward implementing many of the suggestions we made at the federal level. Some have not been accepted by the provincial governments. This is a matter of constant discussion between the provincial housing authorities and CMHC.

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TRANSPORT

FERRY RATE INCREASES IMPOSED BY CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS IN MARITIMES—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport. In view of the serious cost to the economy of the Atlantic provinces as a result of the increased CNR ferry rates, would the parliamentary secretary bring all the grievances and protestations already made to the minister's attention and ask him to make a statement on motions when he returns to the House?

Mr. Gérard Duquet (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I would again like to repeat that the increase in ferry rates does not contravene the terms of union with the province of Newfoundland which refer to the movement of freight. The increase was made after a very close study of the matter. Further, the minister will be in the House on Tuesday and he will certainly be glad to answer any questions put by hon. members.

Mr. Marshall: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary secretary has not answered the question. It has nothing to do with rail freight rates. It has to do with ferry rate increases between the provinces of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.