

out of Quebec that the furniture industry is short of hardwood lumber in that province?

Mr. Gillespie: I understand that there is a tight situation, but I have also been assured that Canadian producers will do everything they can to assure a supply to Canadian furniture makers.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for St. Catharines on a supplementary.

Mr. Trevor Morgan (St. Catharines): Again my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Does he not agree that there is a substantial shortage of lumber for home building here in Canada today?

Mr. Gillespie: There seems to be a worldwide shortage of lumber at present.

* * *

FISHERIES

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF AGREEMENT ON RECIPROCAL FISHING ARRANGEMENTS WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries. I wish to ask him whether he will table in the House a copy of the text of the recently negotiated agreement with the United States on reciprocal fishing arrangements.

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Yes, we are prepared to do that, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

ALLEGED LEAK OF CABINET DOCUMENT—POSSIBLE INVESTIGATION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister and I am sorry to interrupt him. I should like to ask him whether he has launched, or caused to be launched within the last two weeks, any investigation into any leaked cabinet document and, if so, would the date of the document be May 17?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I cannot say from memory if there has been an investigation on a particular date or in reference to a document of a particular date, but I can say quite candidly that when documents are leaked there is a standing instruction from me to ensure that the departments from which there appears to be a leak are carrying out an investigation within the department to see if they can ascertain the source of that leak. Confidentiality remains the basis on which we think governments should be able to operate in receiving advice from their officials.

Mr. Stanfield: I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether in fact such an investigation has been launched

Oral Questions

during the past two weeks with regard to a leaked cabinet document.

Mr. Trudeau: I would presume so, Mr. Speaker. When I was told this morning that there might be a leak of a cabinet document, I said that we should try to ascertain the source of that leak.

* * *

PUBLIC SERVICE

INQUIRY AS TO PURPOSE OF ALLEGED FINGERPRINTING OF EMPLOYEES

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I asked the Prime Minister some ten days ago whether all civil servants were fingerprinted. Since then I have done some ascertaining myself and I believe that to be correct. Was the reason for doing so, now that all civil servants in any category hired by the Public Service Commission are being fingerprinted, to catch and trace down the leaks which are now so frequent?

● (1530)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I did look into the question and so far as I can recall, subject to refreshing my memory, the answer is no. There is no fingerprinting automatically of all civil servants. Certain categories of civil servants are indeed fingerprinted, as was recognized by the Minister of Manpower and Immigration in the particular case requested of him.

Mr. Woolliams: Do I now take it from the Prime Minister's answer that what he is saying is that there is no requirement that all public servants be fingerprinted?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker. That is what is in my memory. If I am in error on that I will want to correct it later today or tomorrow.

* * *

HOUSING

TORONTO—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE THAT PROPOSED RENT INCREASES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS WILL NOT BE PROCEEDED WITH

Mr. Terry Grier (Toronto-Lakeshore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. Is the minister today in a position to assure the House that the proposed rent increases in the Toronto area for senior citizens, to which I have referred, will not be proceeded with after May 31, which is the end of the 60-day moratorium, and if the minister is not able to give us that assurance today will he indicate whether by tomorrow he will be able to do so?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Company is a non-profit organization and I have offered them a proposal to convert their limited dividend housing into public housing and therefore have a 50 per cent federal contribution toward the rent to income scale in