

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would think this is a question which might well be placed on the order paper.

Mr. McCleave: Ten o'clock.

INQUIRY AS TO STEPS TO REDUCE PRICES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. William Dean Howe (Hamilton South): I have a question I should like to ask the Registrar General. Can the minister assure the house that the government will still take steps to lower drug prices in spite of the letter he received from the Canadian Medical Association expressing more or less contrary advice?

Hon. John N. Turner (Registrar General): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

FINANCE

CARTER COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS— REQUEST FOR STUDY BY PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): I should like to direct this question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that he has now received briefs from the extractive industries, petroleum and mining, and having regard to some uncertainty in those industries, would the minister be prepared to submit the Carter commission report to a joint committee of the Senate and the House of Commons for consideration before bringing down a white paper?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): I do not think that would be a very profitable suggestion to follow. However, I am considering whether I should make a preliminary statement about the whole matter fairly soon.

INQUIRY AS TO INCREASED INTEREST RATE ON ANNUITIES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Leader of the Opposition): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact that the government has increased the interest rate on housing mortgages and removed the ceiling from interest rates charged by chartered banks, is consideration being given to increasing the interest rate on government annuities at the present time?

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): No, Mr. Speaker.

Inquiries of the Ministry

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

BRITISH COLUMBIA—REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PAYMENTS TO FISHERMEN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): I direct this question to the Minister of Labour; it is related to the subject raised the other day by my hon. friends from Skeena and Burnaby-Richmond when they sought to adjourn the house business to discuss unemployment among fishermen on the west coast.

Bearing in mind the unusual situation which affects about 1,000 fishermen and allied workers in British Columbia due to closure of the herring fishery for conservation purposes, would the minister consider making some amendments to the regulations which would allow the Unemployment Insurance Commission to meet this situation?

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): This matter has been discussed carefully, on more than one occasion, by me with the Unemployment Insurance Commission as well as with my colleague the Minister of Fisheries.

The decision with regard to the length of the herring season was taken by the Minister of Fisheries after hearing representations from both fishermen and from the employers, the fishing companies. In these circumstances this is not a case for special action by the Unemployment Insurance Commission. Unemployment insurance is based on contributions or credits and is administered on a national basis, not on a regional or sectional basis, and I regret to say that this is not a case in which special action could be taken under the legislation. I might also say that I have agreed to meet with the representatives of the fishermen's union on a visit to Vancouver this coming week end, to explain the situation to them.

MANPOWER

MANITOBA—REPORTED DECREASE IN NUMBER OF INDIANS TAKING COURSES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): I wish to address a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Has the minister received complaints from the Indian communities in Manitoba to the effect that because of the standard of educational qualifications now required in order to attend retraining courses the number of Indians attending these courses in Manitoba has been reduced from 1,500 last year to virtually none today?