

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would think the question as asked is much too general in scope and should be placed on the order paper.

FINANCE**CARTER COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS—
REQUEST FOR STUDY BY PARLIAMENTARY
COMMITTEE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the right hon. Prime Minister in the absence of the Minister of Finance. In view of the rejection by the three prairie province premiers of the Carter commission recommendations, will the government undertake to place those recommendations before a joint parliamentary committee before any action is taken by the Minister of Finance on any part of that report?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not understand that these three premiers have rejected all the recommendations of the Carter commission. I listened to their spokesman, the premier of Manitoba, on television last night, and I received a telegram this morning from him on behalf of the three to the effect that they view with concern the apparent haste with which the federal government proposes to implement the recommendations. I do not know where they got any indication that there was going to be any undue haste.

An hon. Member: Just imagine that.

Mr. Pearson: Perhaps they assumed, and this would be a normal assumption, that there might be haste because this government always acts quickly on these matters.

Mr. Starr: That was during the 60 days.

Mr. Pearson: If they have any view that we are going to act with undue haste on this matter, there is no ground for such fears.

HOUSING**SUGGESTED CHANGE IN FORMULA TO DETER-
MINE MORTGAGE RATE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour, who is responsible for housing. In view of the probable increase in N.H.A. mortgage rates from 7 to 7½ per cent, and in view of the serious decline in housing starts so far this year, does the government

[Mr. Howe (Hamilton South).]

intend to change the formula of determining N.H.A. rates to encourage an increase in housing starts to meet the housing crisis today.

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, in the first place the premise on which the question is based is completely wrong. There has been an appreciable increase in housing starts this year, notwithstanding the fact that housing starts were at a low level during the first quarter. We are already well ahead of last year and the increase in starts is continuing. So far as the interest rate level on N.H.A. or guaranteed loans is concerned, this in my opinion, represents one of the factors that has contributed to the substantial increase in starts during recent weeks.

Mr. Gilbert: Will the Minister of Labour agree to refer the estimates of C.M.H.C. to the standing committee on housing, urban development and public works?

Mr. Nicholson: No, Mr. Speaker.

FORESTRY**LIABILITY RESULTING FROM FATAL
ACCIDENT AT LABORATORY**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Queens): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development, I should like to address my question to the acting minister. Has the minister caused an investigation to be made into the recent fatal accident at the forestry department research laboratory to determine government liability, if any?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I believe that investigation is going on. I will bring the hon. member's question to the attention of the minister and he may have something to say about this on Monday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS**SUGGESTED SURVEY OF ELEVATOR
SERVICE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether I should direct this question to Your Honour or to the Minister of Public Works, but I hope you will not consider it to be a theoretical one. When this house takes recess will Your Honour or the Minister of Public Works, whoever has jurisdiction, have an investigation and survey made in