

Consumer Affairs

have never solved any problems, because the government did not have the courage to take its responsibilities.

In his statement to the house, the minister said and I quote:

I am confident that this Commission, as it proceeds with its tasks of investigating the inflationary process in Canada and of giving public advice on how we may achieve better price stability, will be able to bring about a greater degree of restraint on the part of those in the private sector who are charged with the responsibility of making current decisions about prices and incomes.

Mr. Speaker, we have been hearing the same old story for some fifteen years, and things are getting worse all the time.

The minister said in conclusion:

I want to emphasize, as we did in the White Paper, that this is only one element in the government's policies—

The setting up of the commission is only one element of the government's policies.

—for price stability. Monetary and fiscal policy are the major instruments the government is relying on.

Mr. Speaker, that is precisely what prompts us of the Ralliement créditiste to tell the government, that instead of setting up commissions which will realize that prices increase and that the poor get poorer all the time, it should assume its responsibilities as far as monetary reform is concerned, as suggested by the Ralliement créditiste, and wage an efficient battle against inflation which remains the "baby" of the present monetary system.

[English]

THE PATENT ACT**AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE AUTHORITY TO MAKE RULES RESPECTING FEES**

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-194, to amend the Patent Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT LOANS ACT**AMENDMENT TO INCREASE MAXIMUM ON GUARANTEED LOANS**

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-195, to amend the Fisheries Improvement Loans Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

[Mr. Caouette.]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT****ATLANTIC REGION—REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Prime Minister arising from statements attributed to him when he was on his high-flying weekend to New Brunswick, to the effect that "to counterbalance the effects of our anti-inflation measures we will have to spend more for regional development". Will the right hon. gentleman say whether the government has any new programs in mind to assist the Atlantic region, and if so, when an announcement may be expected?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the minister responsible for regional economic expansion will make an announcement in due course.

Mr. McCleave: Was he along with you?

Mr. Macquarrie: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Regional Economic Expansion was not in New Brunswick this weekend. Is the Prime Minister or the government having any studies made of the impact of the lacuna in development funds which will take place because of the phasing out of the existing programs and the delay in passing and implementing the new incentive programs?

Mr. Trudeau: We are very much aware of these problems. Any lacuna, if they do exist, are a concern of the government.

Mr. Macquarrie: One further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is it correct to assume that despite the Prime Minister's position as outlined during the weekend, the government has no new policies to offer?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question is argumentative.

HOUSING**INQUIRY AS TO AMENDMENTS TO LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister, likewise based upon his weekend visit to New Brunswick. In view of some of the housing conditions the Prime Minister saw in certain parts of New Brunswick, is it now the government's intention to