

Oral Questions

major mission. I think the Japanese have responded in part by the liberalization of their trade regulations but, from our point of view, not nearly enough. We think much more needs to be done and we have made representations to that effect.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): In light of the minister's latter remark may I ask him, can he now assure the House that Japan is living up to the promises made to his predecessor that there would be substantial reductions of restrictions on Canadian imports, and when can we expect a full report on this subject to be made to the House?

Mr. Gillespie: As I indicated in my first reply, we believe the Japanese government have made a number of important moves. We do not think they have gone far enough yet and we will be urging them to go farther.

[Later:]

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce with regard to trade with Japan. Is it not a fact that practically all of that increase, and in fact almost all of our trade with Japan is in raw materials, which provides practically no jobs at home, and would he stop being so proud and patting himself on the back?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not a question; that is debate.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

INCREASE IN FIRE INSURANCE PREMIUMS BY ROYAL INSURANCE GROUP—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the fact the Royal Insurance Group has raised premiums on fire insurance for home furnishings by 91 per cent in some cases, while the cost of home furnishings has risen by only 9.8 per cent in the last five years, would he consider investigating whether this raise is justified?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to ask the officials to see whether this is a matter that can be looked into under the provisions of the Combines Investigation Act.

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased with the minister's reply. Will he also investigate whether tenants, as a result of these increased premiums, are being asked to offset higher costs of providing fire insurance for homeowners and landlords?

Mr. Gray: I will ask my officials to bear this in mind also.

[Mr. Gillespie.]

FLOODS

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO—POSSIBLE FEDERAL AID TO REPAIR DAMAGE

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. The minister is aware of the urgency of speedy reconstruction of dikes, seawalls and roads around the lakes in southwestern Ontario because of tremendous storm damage, and is also aware that direct provincial aid has been held up for some weeks pending a federal announcement of financial participation. Can the minister say whether such a decision can be expected in the next day or so?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I talked to my provincial counterpart earlier this week and late last week. I understand that they are making submissions to the Ontario cabinet in Toronto today, and I understand that a submission is going to be made here possibly around the first of next week.

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INCOME TAX

ELECTION BY BENEFICIARIES OF TRUSTS—ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Revenue, or perhaps to the Minister of Finance. Under the terms of the Income Tax Act effective January 1, 1972, beneficiaries of trusts had a period of election ending in February of this year, depending upon regulatory instructions. Since the regulations have not been issued will the minister kindly advise when they are going to be issued, or do they have to await the budget, and is his budget to be presented after March 1 next?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to look into that matter and report to the hon. member.

REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION OF SECTION 12 OF 1972 TAX RETURN GUIDE

Mr. Duncan M. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of National Revenue. In order to keep the government's attractive 1972 income tax return guide crystal clear, would the minister tell the House whether the Department of National Revenue is going to issue an explanation of the statement in section 12 that "the amount to be reported a 'taxable amount of dividends from taxable Canadian corporations' is the actual amount of dividends received plus one-third of this total."?

• (1520)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is inviting the minister to make a statement on motions. The hon. member for MacKenzie.