

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**INFLATION—EXTENSION OF COPPER PRICE
INCREASE SUSPENSION**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the prediction of the president of the Canadian Electrical Manufacturers' Association that if the recent suspension of the copper price increase is removed it will force a two per cent increase this year in the price of electrical goods manufactured in Canada, is the minister discussing with the copper producers the extension of the price increase suspension agreed on several weeks ago, particularly in view of the so-called commitments made at the conference this week in Ottawa?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, in my view the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs answered this question fairly well the other day. He said that this situation is constantly under review in light of the consensus reached by business at the conference of the Prices and Incomes Commission this week and in light of the coming federal-provincial conference on this matter. We will have something to announce before March 1.

Mr. Orlikow: Could the minister answer my question with a very simple yes or no?

[Translation]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister.

Could he tell us whether he supports the principle of secret balloting in the House which would mean that hon. members could disregard decisions taken within the caucus?

Mr. Speaker: I would suggest to the hon. member that his question is not acceptable.

[English]

FINANCE**REPORTED MOVEMENT OF FOREIGN CAPITAL
OUT OF CANADA**

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Will the minister give the House a clear picture of the current position of the movement of foreign capital in and out of Canada in order to clarify confusing stories

[Mr. Chrétien.]

that foreign capital is being taken out of Canada at an accelerating rate in the wake of the publication of the white paper on taxation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me that the question asked by the hon. member should be responded to in a general way by a statement on motions.

POLLUTION**LEGISLATION TO BAN PHOSPHATES IN
DETERGENTS**

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. It arises from opinions advanced in the committee on national resources that the federal government possesses authority to limit or ban the use of phosphates in detergents. Will the minister tell the House whether he intends to make a clear statement as to his plans in this regard? Does he propose to move an amendment to the bill in committee?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): A week ago today, if I recall correctly, I announced in the House that we intended to move in connection with this matter. Inasmuch as the spirit of the Canada Water Act is based on co-operation with the provinces, I have been discussing the situation with my provincial counterparts during the past week, and I can assure the hon. member that we intend to proceed either by way of an amendment to the Canada Water Act or by means of a separate statute; we have not yet decided on the preferable method.

Mr. Aiken: The minister made statements on this subject last Friday and again on Monday in which he seemed to be speaking on both sides of the question. May I ask whether he intends to proceed to introduce such an amendment on his own as part of the federal responsibility?

Mr. Greene: We intend to proceed by whatever method will be most effective in ensuring that phosphates are controlled and, ultimately, banned.

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): In view of a statement by a cabinet minister in British Columbia that he is prepared to introduce ancillary legislation supplementing federal policy if the federal government will send him a draft of the provincial legislation