

Mr. Reynolds: Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the right hon. Prime Minister. Will the Special Committee on Trends in Food Prices be discontinued after the prices review board is set up?

FOOD PRICES—GOVERNMENT ACTION ON REPORT OF
SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. What action does the government propose to take since receiving the report of the Special Committee on Trends in Food Prices to aid and assist the hardpressed consumers of this country, other than setting up a new and equally ineffective prices and incomes commission under the guise of a prices review board?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would refer my hon. friend to my statement in the House on Tuesday.

Mr. Ron Atkey (St. Paul's): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Would he indicate clearly his position on recommendations 2, 4 and 6 of the report of the Special Committee on Trends in Food Prices, which deal with consumer protection, consumer education and consumer representation, and which clearly apply to all consumer items and not just food which is the only focus of the toothless and misguided recommendation—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that the minister would have to do that on motions rather than by way of a reply to a question.

* * *

VETERANS AFFAIRS

BASIC RATE OF PENSION—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON
JOINT STUDY REPORT

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Veterans Affairs and is a follow-up to a question I asked yesterday. In view of the fact that the joint study report on the basic rate of pension recommended a new formula basing annual increases on the increase in the average wage of the five lowest categories in the Public Service rather than on the cost of living index, would he advise the House whether the government is accepting this formula in considering amending legislation on disability pensions?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this recommendation is now before the government.

An hon. Member: Where it was yesterday.

Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan): I hope to have a report for the House on this subject before very long.

Oral Questions

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, will the minister be able to make a statement on this matter to the House before we rise for the Easter recess?

Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, if a statement is available to me I will make it available to the House.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Who is running this department?

Mr. Marshall: Mr. Speaker, after three months the Minister of Veterans Affairs is learning very quickly from his colleagues how to be evasive. Since this is very important so far as the veterans are concerned, and in view of the fact he accepts the recommendation of the joint study, will he make a statement on motions before we recess for Easter?

Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan): I would give the same answer that I gave to the other hon. member. If I have a statement to make I will sure make it.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Stay in there, Jack.

* * *

NATIONAL SECURITY

REASONS FOR NOT MAKING AVAILABLE ADDRESS BY
RCMP OFFICER TO MEETING ON INDUSTRIAL SECURITY

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. Will he inform the House as to his reasons for deciding not to make available to members of this House the address delivered by a senior official of the RCMP to hundreds of businessmen at a private meeting in Ottawa a few days ago?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I have already made available to the hon. member one of the papers presented at the meeting which did not deal with matters that were considered to be security.

Mr. Broadbent: That is not the one.

Mr. Allmand: A second paper did deal with matters that were of a security nature. I must say that this paper was not given to a group of businessmen; it was given to a group of industrial security officers—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Allmand: —who work in close conjunction with the government on defence contracts and similar matters. I looked into the matter to see if it could be given to the hon. member, but it would be against the public interest to make this information available.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, would the Solicitor General inform the House whether it is government policy to