

Inquiries of the Ministry

three months the minister and his associates have been saying that this matter is under consideration, when does he think that the government will have reached a decision, and when does he think that he will be able to convey that decision to the house?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out a few minutes ago the government has done a number of things, not only within the last three months but indeed within the last ten months, to be helpful in this situation.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): What has it done?

Mr. Olson: I do not have time to list them now, but I would be happy to do so. Further to that, ministers other than the Minister of Agriculture have replied that we are considering additional helpful steps.

Mr. Baldwin: Your attitude is a positive disgrace.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hees: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have to bring to the attention of hon. members that if they spend too much time asking numerous supplementaries we will have again a situation that arose in recent days, when a considerable number of members are not given the opportunity to ask questions. If, every day, we adopt two subjects and then spend 20 minutes on each one, I doubt whether we will achieve a result that is satisfactory to hon. members generally. I should like to call on the hon. member for Frontenac.

[Translation]

Mr. Bernard Dumont (Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture.

Has the minister considered also the problems of eastern farmers?

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**NATO—POLITICAL EFFECT OF REDUCED
CANADIAN MILITARY PARTICIPATION**

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Has the right hon. gentleman received intimations from our NATO allies that Canada's withdrawal from its military obligations

[Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

under NATO will reduce the effectiveness of our political participation, thereby delaying progress toward greater unity among the nations of the North Atlantic community?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I have received no direct communication to that effect, Mr. Speaker. I understand that various members of NATO communicated various points of view to the Minister of National Defence when he was in Europe, but I have received no personal representations from any government.

Mr. Hees: Does the phrase "passing the buck"—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Hees: —mean nothing to the Prime Minister?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Dinsdale: A supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member does have a supplementary but we are returning to a question on which we have already spent 20 minutes.

Mr. Dinsdale: Is the government phasing out its political support for NATO in the same ratio as the withdrawal of its military support?

Mr. Trudeau: Of course not, Mr. Speaker.

COMBINES**CONTROL OF DEALERSHIPS BY AUTOMOBILE
MANUFACTURERS**

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for my congenial colleague, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the concern recently expressed by Mr. F. W. Dalglish, president of Volkswagen London Motors Ltd. about the fact that automobile producers now control 60 per cent of the auto dealerships in Toronto, would the minister appeal to his colleague the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs to have the combines investigation branch investigate this situation, to see whether there has been a violation of Canadian law?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Representation has been received.