

Inquiries of the Ministry

to a previous understanding. Now that the government of Saskatchewan has seen fit to include disposal licences in its regulations and has also announced a ministerial order in respect of minimum prices, the constitutionality generally of these regulations is now under further examination.

I might add for information that the regulations will not be effective until January 1, and that discussions about the regulations which have been held with the government of Saskatchewan at both ministerial and official levels in the recent past will continue after a public hearing which is to be held on December 8 in Regina by Saskatchewan officials.

Mr. Burton: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the government of Saskatchewan asked for federal action or joint federal-provincial action to establish a potash export board, and have there been discussions between the government of Saskatchewan and the government of Canada on this matter?

Mr. Pepin: As I indicated a few days ago, this might be one way of going at it. I am not aware of formal discussion between the governments at Regina and Ottawa on that particular method.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

CONFIDENTIAL FILES ON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address this question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Has he received any complaints, written or otherwise, regarding the very careless manner in which the extremely confidential files on communicable diseases are handled which permits the possibility of the information being leaked with disastrous results and serious consequences to the victim?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Would that be in my department or in DBS?

Mr. Bell: Mr. Speaker, I have a question—

Mr. Rynard: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I want to tell the minister that this matter comes under his department, since it is handled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Perhaps the minister would be good enough to look into this question and bring forward a reply tomorrow. If so, I would be satisfied.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has asked a question and the minister has given a form of reply. We are just about out of time. I was hoping two or three other members might be given an opportunity to ask questions.

Mr. Rynard: I will just take a minute to ask the minister if he will confer with the Prime Minister on his well known dictum that the government has no business snooping in the bedrooms of the nation.

INDUSTRY

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CANADIAN MACHINERY MANUFACTURERS WITH RESPECT TO BIDS

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. It concerns a serious and immediate problem facing Canadian machinery manufacturers and arises from their exclusion from bidding on Canadian projects financed by foreign countries which require that that equipment be purchased exclusively from the country supplying the financing. Can the minister tell the House whether his department is taking action to counteract these discriminatory practices against Canadian manufacturers?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): When a project is receiving federal government assistance we do everything possible to ensure that Canadian manufacturers are given an opportunity to bid. For example, it was suggested—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the minister that perhaps his reply might be continued on another occasion. We have just about reached the end of the question period. I interrupted the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster who had been recognized previously. I suggest he should be given an opportunity to ask his question.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

CORPORATIONS ACT

AMENDING BILL—DISTRIBUTION OF FACT SHEETS TO LIBERAL MEMBERS

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, I have a very important question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Would the minister indicate whether any civil servants within his department have been required to prepare or assist in the preparation of the "fact sheets",