

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I think the Leader of the Opposition is also confused about the nature of the action. This was not part of any aid program. It was a unilateral action taken by Canada in anticipation of the signing of an international sugar agreement. Canada helped to get that agreement concluded. The price of sugar went up and we believe it is now more suitable to increase our aid program than continue this temporary rebate.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, would the minister not agree that in terms of the effectiveness of the assistance, as well as having a bearing on the relations between our country and the countries affected, it would be appropriate for Canada to consult the other countries concerned before making a unilateral decision about a policy, admittedly with a unilateral base in the first place?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I understand the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce would like to participate in the debate.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, if the Leader of the Opposition is interested in the facts it might be useful to say that West Indies exporters of sugar did not use the rebate fully and are not at present using fully the allocation under the international sugar agreement.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I asked for a statement.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The point made by the hon. member for Edmonton West is well taken. It was not my understanding that the question was asked of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. I suggest that we should not enter the field of debate. The hon. member for Fundy-Royal has a supplementary question, I gather.

RESOLUTION PASSED BY CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS RESPECTING TRADE WITH CANADA

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): What information can the minister give us about a meeting of heads of governments of the Caribbean countries which I am informed passed a resolution calling for an inventory of Canadian assets in the various Caribbean countries?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, such a meeting was held. They did not call for an inventory of Canadian assets. I have seen the resolution; I thought I had it with me, but I can

[Mr. Stanfield.]

get it. What it did call for was a review of trade and other relations between Canada and the islands, but it did not refer specifically to an inventory of assets.

SAFETY OF CANADIANS IN TRINIDAD—
EVACUATION ARRANGEMENTS

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a related question. Has the minister had any information on whether there has been any molestation of Canadians in Trinidad or injury to them or to their property?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I understand that yesterday or the day before some windows were broken. There have been, however, no injuries as far as we know to any Canadians, and certainly no violence has been directed particularly against Canadian property.

Mr. Harkness: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. What arrangements, if any, has the minister now made for the evacuation of Canadian personnel, tourists or otherwise, from Trinidad?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to give the details because I would not want to create an impression that we are expecting that evacuation will be necessary. I believe that conditions have now improved somewhat and it is important that we do not create unnecessary concern. We have contingency plans for the evacuation of Canadians.

WOMEN

REPORTED STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF
LABOUR—ROYAL COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Is the attitude the minister took to the over-eager feminists in Montreal on Wednesday, April 22, prompted by what Judy LaMarsh said about the minister in her much publicized book?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of Labour and is related to the last question.