

Inquiries of the Ministry

will announce the new head of the Economic Council of Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Rather soon, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

AGRICULTURE

ACTION TO OFFSET IMPACT OF UNITED STATES IMPORT SURTAX ON SMALL FRUITS AND POTATOES

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Acting Minister of Agriculture. What action is the government taking in light of the statement by the Minister of Agriculture, found at page 7588 of *Hansard*, having regard to stabilizing the prices of certain agricultural products which are adversely affected either directly or indirectly by the United States surcharge, and I am thinking especially of such items as small fruits, including blueberries, and potatoes?

• (2:50 p.m.)

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): The Department of Agriculture is looking at the variety of products, product by product, in an effort to see what should be done in a variety of situations about the impact on the price of the Canadian producer.

REQUEST FOR ALLOCATION OF PORTION OF FUNDS UNDER EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT BILL TO PRODUCERS

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): I should like to address a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Has the government received representations from Mr. Turner, president of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, that a portion of the \$80 million designed to assist those sectors of the economy affected by the U.S. import surcharge should be allocated for agricultural producers? If so, can he inform the House as to the nature of the government's reply?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I did reply to a letter along these lines indicating that certain sectors of the agricultural community would benefit from their share of the \$80 million when it had to do with agricultural products which were processed in some way. As to the others that would not qualify for any share of that amount, I repeated what the Minister of Agriculture had told the House, namely, that we would use existing legislation where possible and necessary to assist the agricultural sector of the economy.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Surrey-White Rock.

Mr. Gleave: I have a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: I apologize to the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock but perhaps I might allow a supplementary question to the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar. Again I bring to the attention of hon. members that if we have three, four or more supplementary questions we will again run short of time.

Mr. Gleave: May I ask the Prime Minister whether in the Department of Agriculture or any other agency of the government there is in hand a definite program which will attempt to deal with various agricultural products as they are affected by the U.S. policy?

Mr. Trudeau: I will refer the question to the Minister of Agriculture and perhaps he can be invited by the hon. member to answer the question in the House.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Surrey-White Rock.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I wish to rise on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry; the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock has his difficulties today. Again I have to apologize to him, but the hon. member for Egmont is rising on a point of order.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, this is the second occasion on which the Prime Minister has indicated that the House will have to wait for the Minister of Agriculture. As the question involves many perishable products and the minister has been absent from the House for some days, would it not be possible for some member of the administration to answer these important questions so that the farmers of this country may know where they stand?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Surrey-White Rock.

* * *

COMMUNICATIONS

CLOSING OF TORONTO "TELEGRAM"—PREVENTION OF CONCENTRATION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION IN FEWER HANDS

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock): My question is for the Secretary of State. It is in connection with the impending shutdown of the Toronto *Telegram*. Would the minister be prepared to receive and consider representations from interested parties, including Members of Parliament, aimed at preventing a further concentration of public information in fewer and fewer hands, which will be the result of this closure?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, when representations are made to a federal department, I fail to see how the minister can possibly refuse to receive them.

* * *

[*English*]

SOCIAL SECURITY

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON STUDY OF DEVELOPMENT OF GUARANTEED INCOME PLAN

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): My question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Would the minister advise the House if and when he is going to make a statement with regard to the \$15 million study of a guaranteed income development plan, outlining