

*Inquiries of the Ministry***CANADIAN RADIO PATENTS LIMITED**

INQUIRY AS TO PROTEST AGAINST U.S. ANTI-TRUST SUIT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): May I ask the Prime Minister if he is in a position to answer the question I put to him Monday last namely, if a formal protest had been made by the government of Canada regarding the anti-trust suit involving Canadian radio and television manufacturers?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I took the hon. member's question as notice. I find that on February 4 motion No. 8 was agreed to, that motion calling for the production of all correspondence between the federal government and officials of the United States concerning the action in United States courts in this regard. Included among the papers was note No. 836, dated December 19, 1958, which the Canadian charge d'affaires delivered to the acting secretary of state on that date expressing the Canadian government's concern over the action taken by the United States department of justice. Since that time no other formal protests have been made.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Is the Prime Minister aware that The Netherlands' government has since made a formal protest in so far as infringement of its jurisdiction is concerned?

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I have pointed out the entire situation.

INQUIRY FOR RETURN

R.C.M.P. REINFORCEMENTS, N.F.L.D.—PROTESTS OVER FEDERAL ACTION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate): Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day are called I wonder whether I could ask the Prime Minister how soon he hopes to be in a position to comply with the order of the house adopted on March 25, four weeks ago, requesting the production of communications protesting the refusal of the government to reinforce the R.C.M.P. in Newfoundland.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): I shall certainly have that looked into, Mr. Speaker.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Rea in the chair.

[Mr. Macdonnell.]

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Administration branch—

1. Departmental administration, including advisory committee on agricultural services, \$747,531.

Mr. Argue: I believe I have about five minutes of my time remaining and I want to use that time to comment on the announcement made by the minister this afternoon and also to comment further on the question of deficiency payments on western grain.

The announcement made by the Minister of Agriculture this afternoon as to the government's policy with regard to dairy products does not meet the requests submitted to the government by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and by the Ontario milk producers board. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture, in its presentation to the Prime Minister and members of the cabinet on February 24, requested the maintenance on the spray powder support price at 15 cents and an increase from 12 cents to 13 cents in the roller powder support price, to bring it into proper relationship with spray powder. The government has gone completely contrary to this request and has announced today that within a few months the support price on skim milk powder will be removed completely. This announcement almost certainly will be greeted with keen disappointment by the dairy industry all across this country.

This announcement demonstrates that the government has no policy to deal with the tremendous agricultural surpluses that are beginning to pile up in this country. Although the minister has not stated so, I welcome the fact that there will be no reduction in the support price for butter; yet the government seems at a loss to be able to deal with the very large surplus stocks of butter that are on hand. Figures given to me in a return showed that on December 31, 1958, the agricultural stabilization board held over 79 million pounds of butter. The government may, by this policy, as it is endeavouring to do, direct dairy production into channels other than skim milk powder, but in the absence of any over-all agricultural policy to move surpluses it will be transferring one problem in one particular branch of the dairy industry to another branch.

Although the agriculture estimates have been before this committee for five days, we are still waiting for a statement from the government on its position so far as the request of the farm delegation for deficiency payments is concerned. The Minister of Agriculture, speaking on this item the last day it was before the committee, April 10, placed on the record a very long letter he had received from an individual farmer in Saskatchewan. This man, according to the submission quoted by the minister, said he had