

without delay because it is very important that it be considered and action taken on it before the next election.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale.

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair has recognized the hon. member for Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale.

FARM MACHINERY

SUGGESTED LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT PRICE INCREASES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Since the inquiry concerning the cost of farm machinery will take some time to complete, according to the minister's statement in the house, would it not be possible in the meantime for the minister to bring in legislation whereby machinery companies cannot increase the price of farm machinery during the inquiry period?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of the inquiry I understand that these machinery companies have been co-operating very effectively with the commissioner in his investigations, and I hope that in the same spirit the companies, in view of the inflationary problems with which the country is faced as well as the inquiry, will refrain from increasing prices prior to the determination of the inquiry. In respect of the question of current prices and whether there are current increases which are affecting the price of farm machinery, it certainly would be my view that a company should refrain, if at all possible, from increasing prices until we have the commission's report.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Has the minister made any representations to the farm implement companies along the line he has just suggested?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, at the moment I have had no representation or suggestion that price increases are mooted, but if I find they are I certainly would be prepared to make such a representation to the companies.

Inquiries of the Ministry

HEALTH AND WELFARE

MEDICARE—REASONS FOR POSTPONEMENT OF INTRODUCTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, now that the Minister of National Health and Welfare formally has approved of the postponement of medicare, I should like to ask him whether the postponement was partly due to a lack of medical personnel to carry it out satisfactorily and, as the leader of the New Democratic Party said a day or two ago, was it partly because of representations from provincial governments and provincial premiers?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No, Mr. Speaker. The reasons for the deferment have been stated in the house by the Minister of Finance. These are the reasons which account for the deferment.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

ACTION OF CABINET IN COMMUTING SENTENCES

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for York-Humber asked me a question about commutation and I misunderstood him. I thought he was referring to the last commutation where there was a unanimous recommendation of the jury for mercy. In reading *Hansard* this morning I realized that he was referring to the second last commutation where there was no such recommendation. I apologize to him for having misunderstood his question.

[*Translation*]

HISTORIC SITES

QUEBEC—DEMOLITION OF HOME OF SIR ALEXANDER GALT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Maurice Allard (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

In view of the fact that the minister, last Thursday night, notwithstanding his wishes, did not have time to finish his remarks on the memorial to Sir Alexander Galt, would he inform the house today of the nature of his project?