

Quebec to negotiate in the field of external affairs, if he can tell the house whether there have been some negotiations with the provincial government to that effect and how the government intends to react following such a statement?

Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the text of the speech referred to by the hon. member for Lotbinière. If his report is correct—and I have no reason to doubt it—I am happy to note, on behalf of the government the admission that if the province of Quebec were to operate on the international level, this would require an amendment to the constitution, that is to say the present constitution does not allow such activities.

I have not received any representations asking for such an amendment, Mr. Speaker. If I do, I shall look carefully into them and I shall be glad, at the same time, to suggest to the provincial governments that the federal government would readily take over several matters coming under provincial jurisdiction as the central government is in a better position to deal with them.

[English]

TRADE

CANADA-U.S. MINISTERIAL MEETING— LIQUIDITY IN RESERVES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. V. Pugh (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce arising out of his statement on the joint United States-Canada ministerial meeting and on liquidity in reserves. I am wondering if this is a special reserve set up as to the balance of payments between Canada and the United States. Is it something to bolster the International Monetary Fund, and is it in accordance with the principles set forth under that fund?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I doubt if this question is in order at this time.

CANADA-U.S. MINISTERIAL MEETING—RELAXATION OF IMPORT QUOTAS ON CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent (Ont.)): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce based on the report he gave this morning. Was there any indication given by the representatives from the United States that increased imports

Inquiries of the Ministry

from Canada would be possible by eliminating or relaxing their import quotas, especially as they affect agricultural products?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, we did, for example, have quite a lot to say about the import restrictions on cheddar cheese. The Minister of Agriculture made quite a case of that, and our counterparts in the United States have agreed to give that item favourable consideration. We discussed the broad sweep of agricultural products and the desire on both sides to have free trade. We also discussed closer consultations in order to prevent disturbing each other's market unduly, for example, by the early marketing of products that come on to the Canadian market before the appropriate season in Canada. There were other problems of that character, all of which were reviewed on a very friendly and constructive basis.

EDUCATION

WILLINGNESS OF GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT NATIONAL COUNCIL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Secretary of State. It concerns the proposed national council of education. Could the hon. lady advise the house whether she and her government are ready and willing in every way to support this proposed national council of education?

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Secretary of State): Well, Mr. Speaker, the proposal to set up a national office has been by the provincial governments only, and up to this date no approach has been made to the federal government. We believe, however, there is much to be gained from such an office, and will be very happy and eager to assist in any way we can.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

MEDICARE—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE AS TO IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. William Dean Howe (Hamilton South): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Health and Welfare I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he can assure the house that the medicare program will carry on as planned in spite of statements made by doctors at the annual meeting of the C.M.A., and the fact that Dr. Dalgleish, who became famous at the time of the advent of medicare in Saskatchewan, is to take office as president on July 1, 1968?