

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

if there is any substance in the suggestion of Dr. Showalter, to the effect that so far as purchases of drugs by the government are concerned, drugs of lower quality are supplied to the government than are sold to the general public?

**Miss LaMarsh:** My hon. friend will be aware at once that my reaction, and I am sure his as well, to the newspaper alarum was that the public must be protected, and that drugs of good quality must be available to them as well as available for purchase by the government. I am satisfied, after discussing this with Dr. Morrell, the chief of the drug directorate, that the public are getting quality drugs for their money. I have asked Dr. Morrell to go at once to the committee. I am informed that the drug committee will be sitting next week, will be able to receive Dr. Morrell, and that he will be able to go into the whole matter with them.

The present regulations which the directorate uses are those which were adopted just before the election last year. They had been circulated for about two years among the profession and the drug manufacturers, as well as other interested parties. They were very carefully drawn up as minimal standards for drug manufacture. The regulations, which I would suggest my hon. friend look at, and which are put out by the national research council, are extremely detailed. They cover such things as whether or not household pets may be allowed on the premises at any time; what kind of garments are to be worn over or instead of ordinary clothing during the manufacturing process; the supply of toilet tissue, and that sort of detailed directions which I am informed by my director have no direct bearing on the quality of the drugs manufactured.

**TRADE****WHEAT—SUBSIDY ON EXPORTS BY UNITED STATES**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):** I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In view of the deliberate dumping of wheat by the United States in contravention of their solemn international obligations under GATT, under the committee of the exporting nations and under private and public commitments to the quarterly meetings, what action has the minister taken in this regard?

[Mr. Douglas.]

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has made a very general statement. I wish he could be a little more particular before I answer. Is he referring to a reduction the United States has made in the price of Durum wheat?

**Mr. Hamilton:** I am referring to an announcement which was made yesterday that the United States were subsidizing the sale of Durum wheat by 38 cents a bushel, which is in contravention of its international obligations.

**Mr. Sharp:** Now that the hon. gentleman has clarified this point I want to tell him and hon. members that we are very concerned about this development, and we have made our concern known. The wheat board recognizes, of course, that there is a heavy surplus of Durum wheat in the world. When the United States administration increased its subsidy, as the hon. gentleman has said, thereby reducing its selling price by from 16 to 20 cents a bushel, the Canadian wheat board had to follow suit. This is a disturbing development because it represents the use of United States treasury funds. The reduction in price does not come out of the farmer there as it does in Canada. It causes us great concern, therefore, and we have made these views known through the wheat board.

I shall certainly make our concern known directly to the administration of the United States. It is in our interest, as it is in the interest of the United States, that there should be as much stability as possible in the prices of our main agriculture staples. This point of view is known in the United States, and it will continue to be urged upon them.

**Mr. Hamilton:** May I ask a supplementary question, which will be very clear and obvious. The minister said "I shall make our views known to the United States." Do I understand from this that the United States government, either through the quarterly meetings or by information provided to the minister or the Canadian wheat board, did not inform the minister of this impending action?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I would not have expected that I would know of this personally in advance, but the wheat board was aware of the action taken by the United States, and it caused them grave disturbance.

**Mr. Hamilton:** My question was very clear. I asked the minister a simple question, namely