

Inquiries of the Ministry

presently going on between the Canadian and United States governments, can the minister indicate whether the two governments are discussing the matter of arriving at a formula to help stabilize the International Grains Arrangement?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, these conversations touched upon very many matters of interest between the two countries. That subject did come up as well.

STATUS OF PRODUCTION AND RECEIPTS PROPOSALS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Manpower and Immigration whether the papers he tabled setting forth his stabilization program are to be regarded as government policy or simply proposals for discussion?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the papers tabled indicate a plan of action which of course the government is indicating it would be willing to support. In some respects, of course, the proposals are not complete in final detail because there is very much elaboration which is to take place after discussions with producers and producer organizations, and of course we, as always, are ready to listen to any reasonable alternative proposals which seem to improve the plan.

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IMMIGRATION

PROCESSING IN CANADA OF PERSONS FROM IRON CURTAIN COUNTRIES

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, this question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the report by Mr. Sedgwick tabled last week, is the minister in the near future planning to institute regulations so that people coming from iron curtain countries to Canada and who wish to immigrate here may be processed in Canada and therefore be on the same basis as would immigrants from other countries?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the whole question of the matters arising out of Mr. Sedgwick's report and related issues is under consideration, and a decision will be taken in due course.

STEPS TO RELIEVE BACKLOG OF INTERVIEWS, INQUIRIES AND APPEALS

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. In view of the backlog of interviews, inquiries and appeals, what immediate steps does the minister propose to take to solve these problems?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It would seem to me that the hon. member is asking a question which should be answered by way of a general statement. Unless the minister can reply very quickly, I would think the answer should be given by way of a statement on motions.

[Mr. Southam.]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

EAST PAKISTAN—ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF CANADA'S EMERGENCY RELIEF CONTRIBUTION

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parkdale): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs this question. What effective arrangements have been made by the federal government to ensure that Canada's \$2 million in emergency relief will be properly distributed to the survivors of the East Pakistan catastrophe, and are any drugs for the treatment and prevention of cholera and typhoid part of our relief shipments?

[Translation]

Mr. André Ouellet (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the department should reply to questions tomorrow and I am sure that the minister will be pleased to answer this one.

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[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

MOVING OF INSTALLATIONS FROM ONE BASE TO ANOTHER

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance whether, in the interests of economy, he would warn his colleague the Minister of National Defence to guard against such wasteful practices as the moving of defence installations from places like Clinton to Kingston?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): I will make representations.

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CRIMINAL CODE

ABORTION—INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the statement by the President of the Ontario Medical Association that Canada's present abortion law is now more restrictive than before the so-called reforms came into effect and that the required procedures now make the obtaining of an abortion more difficult, can the Prime Minister inform the House whether the government will introduce new legislation in this field and, if so, when?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would remind the hon. member that this question was asked in similar terms a few days ago.

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POLLUTION

CONTROL OF MERCURY WATER CONTAMINATION BY DRYDEN AND SASKATOON COMPANIES

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. In