

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would think that the supplementary is hypothetical.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REPORTED NUCLEAR EXPLOSION IN SOVIET UNION— CANADIAN PROTEST

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is it the intention of the government to make a formal protest to the Soviet Union in view of the very large nuclear explosion reported to have taken place in the Soviet Union this morning?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly consider whether there would be anything useful to be served. We have made it very plain to all those who have recently exploded nuclear devices that this is contrary to Canadian policy and that we hope they will cease all nuclear testing, but of course if we had to make a protest against every such explosion, including those made by all the great powers, I would be spending a great deal of my time on that.

Mr. Nesbitt: Mr. Speaker, can the Secretary of State for External Affairs tell us if it is government policy to send specific protests only to the United States of America when these things take place and otherwise just make generalized remarks and utter platitudes at the United Nations?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question as asked is not in order. The minister might wish to reply quickly and generally, but I would have to find that the hon. member's question is slightly irregular in its terms.

Mr. Sharp: No. As the hon. member knows, Mr. Speaker, we have recently made a protest to China on its most recent explosion.

* * *

COMPETITION BILL

SUGGESTED WITHDRAWAL FOR REDRAFTING

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Will the minister complete the answer to my question which was cut off in mid-sentence by Your Honour calling orders of the day last week and which Your Honour said, as recorded at page 9763 of *Hansard*, might be pursued today. The question again is, will the minister withdraw the controversial competition bill before the end of this session and have it redrafted in an acceptable form?

Hon. Ron. Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have made clear since last June 29, when the bill was read the first time, that it would not be proceeded with by the government at this session but that after receiving useful and constructive comments from people it would be reintroduced next session.

Inquiries of the Ministry

AGRICULTURE

FARM ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM—ADDITIONAL FUNDS AVAILABLE TO FARM CREDIT CORPORATION TO OVERSEE OPERATION

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the statement that he is proposing to proceed with the farm adjustment program and in view of reports that the Farm Credit Corporation will oversee the program in part in co-operation with the provinces, can he inform the House concerning the amount of additional funds the federal government intends to make available to the Farm Credit Corporation for this purpose?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member knows that the House approved an item of \$16 million in the main estimates this year to deal with the small farm development program.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, do I take it then that the Minister of Agriculture wishes to leave the impression that \$16 million will finance the type of program he has in mind?

Mr. Olson: No, Mr. Speaker, but there will be further estimates in subsequent years and, based on the experience we gain during the next few months, we will come before the House with an appropriate amount.

LEGISLATION RESPECTING DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL FARM PROGRAM

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that the technical committee which is designed to develop a national farm program is due to meet in Ottawa tomorrow, can the minister indicate whether it will be the intention of the government to introduce legislation for the development of a national farm program or will this take place within the framework of existing legislation?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the technical committee meeting tomorrow will be to reconcile the differences between the provincial governments' proposal and the proposal I laid before members of the House and the committee about eight months ago. I might add that there is very little difference. That is the purpose, not for a wide-ranging agricultural program.

[Translation]

QUEBEC—REPRESENTATIONS TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT—COMPENSATION FOR HOG AND EGG PRODUCERS' LOSSES

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

Since Quebec pork and egg producers have incurred losses of approximately \$16 million over the last 12 months, partly compensated by the Quebec government, could the minister tell the House whether he has received any official representations from the Quebec Minister of