

TRADE

CONFERENCE BETWEEN COPPER PRODUCING AND
CONSUMING COUNTRIES—REQUEST FOR REPORT

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. It deals with the conference going on in Geneva between the copper producing and copper consuming countries. Has the minister any report on the conference this week? In particular, will he inform the House who is the person representing Canada?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): On the second part of the question, I apologize. I meant to get this for the hon. member because he asked me privately the other day. I have not got the names of the participants. As to the first part of the question, I can say that the UNCTAD, or United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, has convened its meeting in Geneva and that we are taking an active part—that is to say, Canada is in the conference. In answer to an earlier initiative by the hon. member, let me tell him that the report I have says it is not likely a commodity agreement will be reached at this particular meeting, but it is expected considerable progress will be made toward a more rational approach to the production and supply problem. I will undertake to find out who the representatives are.

● (1440)

SUGGESTED RESTORATION OF INTERNATIONAL WHEAT
AGREEMENT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): In view of the minister's answer which, I presume, means that the government is in favour of international commodity agreements, would the hon. gentleman, as the minister of trade, join with the United States and Australia in trying to restore the International Wheat Agreement because the grain farmers of the world have had no floor protection, now, for eight years?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I hope I did not convey the wrong impression, Mr. Speaker. I said the objective of the meeting was to discuss commodity agreements. The Canadian position on this subject is that there ought to be a producing as well as a consuming nation arrangement. This might be somewhat different from what the hon. gentleman has in mind. As to the question concerning the International Wheat Agreement, I should like to have some time in which to find out what is the current status of the agreement before trying to reply in detail.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): It ran out.

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HEALTH

MEASURES TO ENSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF SWINE 'FLU
VACCINE—CONSULTATIONS WITH PROVINCIAL MINISTERS

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and

Oral Questions

Welfare? In view of the possible imminent danger of a worldwide "swine 'flu" epidemic and the decision taken by the President of the United States in that connection I should like to ask what steps are being taken to ensure supplies of vaccine for the immunization of Canadians.

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, we have been in communication with the American authorities for several weeks on that subject, as well as with the World Health Organization and health services in Great Britain. Unfortunately the vaccine as such does not exist now. It will have to be manufactured. In Canada, we have the capacity to produce a maximum of about 300,000 doses until next fall. We would have to get the surplus from abroad. We are currently in consultation with other countries to study this whole matter and I shall perhaps have something to add on that subject early next week.

[English]

Mr. Rynard: Has the minister been in touch with the provincial ministers of health who are awaiting his announcement before deciding what to do?

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: The officials of my department should already be in communication with provincial authorities; they have already been in communication with provincial authorities on this subject. If they have not, they will be before the end of the day.

POSSIBILITY OF PROGRAM SIMILAR TO UNITED STATES TO
DEAL WITH SWINE 'FLU

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, considering that this illness can affect Canada as well as the United States, can we expect in Canada an announcement similar to the statement the President of the United States made yesterday?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I would like to remind the hon. member that no case of this illness, of this virus, has been identified in Canada to date. As for the announcement I shall have to make on this subject, the hon. member should show some patience and wait till early next week. Even if I made an announcement today, this would change absolutely nothing. There is no vaccine at the present time.

Mr. Grafftey: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask another supplementary of the minister.

Unless I am mistaken, the minister is telling me that this does not affect Canada as gravely as the United States. I assume this epidemic will stop at the 49th parallel.

Mr. Lalonde: I am afraid the hon. member did not understand my reply and I suggest that he read it carefully. He will then realize that all I said was that there has not yet been any identified case of that illness in Canada. The illness, the virus, is so far limited to a very restricted area of the United States, around Fort Dix, in New Jersey.