

them. I can say that if there were such a movement, it certainly would not begin with the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs of which the hon. member was such a distinguished minister.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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### INFORMATION

#### DATE OF REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE OF GREEN PAPER ON FREEDOM OF ACCESS

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I will ask my original question and defer from asking the Prime Minister about eliminating a few ministers. My question is to the President of the Privy Council. Does the government intend before Christmas to present to the House for consideration the green paper on access to government information to be referred to the Joint Committee of the House and Senate on Regulations and Statutory Instruments?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State is responsible for that particular document. It was issued in his name. The moment he is ready to proceed, I will be happy to put the motion on the order paper.

**Mr. Baldwin:** I thank the minister for that information. Can he assure the House that it is not because the government has found too many skeletons still rattling around in the government closets that he refused to bring it in?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

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### FINANCE

#### REQUEST FOR MEETING BETWEEN GATT NEGOTIATORS AND CERTAIN INDUSTRIES

**Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. It is further to a question asked earlier when I asked the minister if he would arrange for a committee of the House to meet with the various economic sectors in Canada and with the negotiators for the upcoming GATT negotiations to determine whether the rates on certain goods entering Canada can be upgraded for the increment of employment and the greater viability of certain industries in Canada.

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, last week the President of Privy Council stated that we are willing to ensure that in these negotiations the negotiators meet the different parties that have an interest in the Geneva conference. The policy is still the same. If there are some sectors in which the hon. member has a specific interest, he can let us know and we will ask our officials to be in touch with those groups.

### Oral Questions

### AGRICULTURE

#### REQUEST FOR MEETING BETWEEN INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES AND GATT NEGOTIATORS

**Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte):** Mr. Speaker, I will direct my supplementary to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the impact that trade negotiations could have on agriculture with regard to improvement, will the Minister of Agriculture attempt to have the government reverse its position in general on such a committee, in particular on agriculture, so that those who have any complaint about the proposals of the tariff board can put these complaints directly before members of the House, the negotiators of GATT and members of the cabinet as well?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I hope the hon. member is not intentionally implying that there has been no discussion between these groups. There has been a tremendous amount of discussion. There was discussion this morning at the food strategy meeting with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the Food Processors Association and the Meat Packers Council on Tariffs. They all had some input. I have already discussed with the President of Privy Council, the House leader, the possibility of members who have expressed an interest in agriculture, fisheries or industry, being on that committee in order that they will have a better understanding of what is going on in the tariff negotiations.

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● (1452)

[Translation]

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### TYPES OF SERVICES SUPPLIED TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES

**Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, I should like to direct a question to one of the other spokesmen for the government in the matter, more specifically to the Minister of Supply and Services in charge of setting up a Francophone Commonwealth centered on Canada. Here is my question: During his recent African tour, with what types of supplies and services did he provide the countries visited?

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services):** Naturally, the services of the Department of External Affairs, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Canadian International Development Agency as well as the good offices of Canada towards the Third World.

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Mr. Speaker, I should also like to put a question to him concerning the various countries visited. Did he go to the Central African empire with a view to soliciting the support of Emperor Bokassa in his proposed Francophone Commonwealth centered on Canada?

**Mr. Goyer:** Mr. Speaker, I went neither to Central Africa nor to Uganda.