

*Inquiries of the Ministry***LABOUR CONDITIONS****DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEES AT U.S. BASES
IN NEWFOUNDLAND**

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Willington): My question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can the minister say if he has received any representations from the Union of National Defence Employees that he hold discussions with his U.S. counterpart regarding Canadians dismissed by the United States at their bases in Canada?

Mr. Speaker: The question as asked is not in order. It is not sufficient to ask merely whether a minister has received representations.

Mr. Lundrigan: May I rephrase my question and ask whether the minister can indicate to the House what response he has made to the representations made by the Union of National Defence Employees respecting negotiations with his U.S. counterpart regarding Canadians employed at U.S. bases in Canada?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): It may be that I have received such representations. I will have to check, but I do not recall them.

Mr. Lundrigan: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate to the House the result of his recent negotiations with his U.S. counterpart regarding better arrangements for Canadians employed at U.S. bases in Canada?

Mr. Sharp: I did report on this subject in answer to a question some time ago and I stated that the results were not very favourable. The United States was not prepared to change its policies.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS**INCREASED OIL PRICES—EFFECT ON FARMERS**

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, but in his absence perhaps the Minister of Agriculture would answer it. On November 17, I asked the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs whether he would instruct the Prices and Incomes Commission to investigate the increase in fuel oil prices. May I now ask the Minister of Agriculture, in view of the fact that virtually all the major oil companies have served notice they will increase their price in the

area west of Ottawa by one cent a gallon, whether the government will now instruct the Prices and Incomes Commission to investigate what effect this price increase will have on farm production costs?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Paul Langlois (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should know that the Prices and Incomes Commission is an independent body. We dare hope that the Commission is studying what relates to the oil companies and will report on the subject.

[*English*]

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question on this subject. I accept the Parliamentary Secretary's answer, but my question was: Will the minister ask the Prices and Incomes Commission to consider this problem?

DRUGS**ALLEGED INEFFECTIVENESS OF PRESCRIPTION
PRODUCT—INQUIRY AS TO STATEMENT**

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. A week ago, in answer to one of the numerous questions from this corner about his forthcoming statement on the alleged ineffectiveness of certain prescription drugs, he said he would try to make a statement "this week", which is now last week. Obviously he could not do so then and I want to know if he will be able to make the statement this week?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am planning to make a statement on Thursday of this week.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**INQUIRY AS TO PRESENCE AT BROADCASTING
COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General and it is related to the musical ride series we had a little earlier in the question period. Are plainclothes members of the RCMP present at the current hearings on the Company of Young Canadians being held before the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts and, if so, what is the reason for their presence?