

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question should be placed on the Order Paper.

PENSIONS

REMOVAL OF ANOMALIES IN LEGISLATION

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): I should like to direct a question, Mr. Speaker, to the Solicitor General. Is it the intention of the government to introduce legislation during this session of parliament to remove certain anomalies which exist in the pension provisions of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): Yes, Mr. Speaker. We hope to bring forward during this session legislation to correct some anomalies and administrative weaknesses in the R.C.M.P. legislation, armed forces pension legislation and the Public Service Superannuation Act.

Mr. MacLean: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I ask the Solicitor General if there are any other pension provisions which the government might improve during this session? I am thinking of the Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances Act which has serious anomalies in it.

Mr. McIlraith: I do not believe there is any provision in the legislation now being prepared relating to the Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances Act. I know that subject is of real concern and the act has many anomalies in it. Perhaps I could take the hon. member's question as a suggestion.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PROTESTS RESPECTING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH VATICAN

Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey-Simcoe): I would like to direct a question to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. Would the Prime Minister tell the house to what extent he is receiving protests in respect of Canada having diplomatic relations with the Holy See, and what is the Prime Minister's attitude toward this resentment?

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure the question as asked is in order. The hon. member is asking the Prime Minister to give a policy statement. However, if hon. members feel the Prime Minister should answer the question, I have no objection.

Mr. Noble: Mr. Speaker, I am only asking for information.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I do not think I can give any useful information. There have been some protests and there has been a great deal of support.

PENITENTIARIES

SUGGESTION THAT JUDGES VISIT PENAL INSTITUTIONS

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): My question is directed to the Minister of Justice. If previous questions have any effect, our penitentiaries may be overflowing with inmates. My question relates to the press release emanating from the minister's office in connection with judges returning to school. Would the minister consider having these judges visit our penitentiaries to expand their knowledge to know just what they are sentencing people to?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is making a suggestion to the minister which I do not think can be accepted as a question.

GRAIN

WHEAT—STEPS TO COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH RUSSIA

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): I have a question, Mr. Speaker, for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce but in his absence I will direct it to the acting minister. In view of the fact the Canadian farmers are patiently waiting for the U.S.S.R. to accept the overdue balance of 150 million bushels of wheat on the last three year contract with that country, can the minister advise what steps, if any, he or his department have taken to encourage the U.S.S.R. to finalize the balance of this important agreement?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, active steps are being taken. As the hon. member knows, negotiations are taking place. In the past it has not been considered useful to discuss publicly the steps that negotiations were taking, but I can assure the hon. member that active negotiations are being pursued.

IMMIGRATION

ASSISTANCE OF R.C.M.P. IN CHECKING APPLICANTS

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, in view of the absence today of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration I direct this