

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Of course, that is the opinion of the hon. gentleman but it is not mine. I judge from the procedural standpoint and to my mind it is clearly not in order. The hon. Leader of the Opposition may wish to rephrase the question.

**Mr. Stanfield:** May I ask the Acting Minister of Manpower and Immigration whether it is his view that an increased rate of private investment, which according to the government's own survey is to be about the same level as last year, should not be encouraged because it would be going beyond the potential of the economy?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I do not wish to be difficult and I shall allow the minister to reply to the hon. gentleman's question, but I again suggest very respectfully that when a member asks a minister whether it is his view that such and such a situation exists it is an invitation to express an opinion. I could read many precedents to the effect that this kind of question is not procedurally correct. Again I want to insist that I certainly do not want to be too difficult in this respect. The minister might be allowed to reply.

**Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Acting Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, some comments I made recently indicated that by standard or orthodox measures the economy is at full potential when it is reaching for a 6 per cent real growth rate. I was pointing out that that was still an inadequate performance in the economy even though measured by those traditional terms it appears to be at full potential. I went on to indicate certain manpower policies—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The reply given by the minister confirms my original interpretation that this kind of question and this kind of reply give rise to academic debates about theoretical situations based on statements made outside the House. That is not the kind of question and answer which we ought to accept procedurally during the question period.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, I shall comply with your ruling and see if I can figure out some better way of getting at the minister's policies.

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#### MANPOWER

##### PRIOR NOTIFICATION TO DEPARTMENT OF SHUTTING DOWN OF NEWSPRINT MILL AT DALHOUSIE, N.B.— DISCUSSION WITH MANAGEMENT

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Acting Minister of Manpower and Immigration and I shall not tax his potential forecast. Was the minister's department informed of the intention of the International Paper Company to shut down its newsprint mill at Dalhousie, New Brunswick, for at least a week and possibly longer? Also, were there any discussions between the department and the management of the mill about the shutdown which will leave some 1,300 workers idle for some time?

#### Inquiries of the Ministry

**Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Acting Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I shall inquire and pass the information to the hon. gentleman.

**Mr. Lewis:** May I ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Public Works who, if I am not mistaken, is also the representative for the riding in which Dalhousie is found.

**Some hon. Members:** Order!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That is information which ought not to be included in the question because a question can be asked of the minister only in his capacity as a member of the ministry.

**Mr. Lewis:** May I ask the Minister of Public Works whether his attention was drawn some weeks ago to the likelihood of difficulties developing as a result of the ice in the port at Dalhousie? Also, did he take any steps to find the necessary icebreakers to open the port so that lay-offs of longshoremen as well as the lay-offs now contemplated at the mill would be avoided?

• (1450)

**Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Public Works):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. This matter was brought to my attention. I contacted the Minister of Transport at once and all available icebreakers are in the region—

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

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[Translation]

#### AGRICULTURE

##### SUGGESTED AMENDMENT OF FARM PRODUCTS MARKETING AGENCIES ACT TO CONTROL IMPORTS

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Agriculture.

Since profitable production depends to a great extent on the volume of imports into Canada of certain farm products, and since Bill C-176 on marketing of farm products passed by Parliament in 1971 contains no provisions to influence or control imports of farm products into Canada, can the hon. minister tell us whether he intends to amend the legislation so that imported farm products may be channelled through provincial marketing boards in the same way as those produced locally?

[English]

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I stated a number of times that any commodity that is imported will, of course, be subjected to the same rules and regulations as domestic production and distribution. I should advise the hon. member, referring to his comment about export markets, that in 1971 we had an all-time high record of agricultural products exported from Canada.