

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): I have tried to answer each question which my hon. friend asked. Also, I would like to assure my hon. friend from Saint John-Lancaster that I am in the house today because I knew the Leader of the Opposition would be out of the house.

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Anybody who has eyes in his head would have seen that the Leader of the Opposition was in the house earlier, and I suggest the minister is here today because he is doing penance.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I rise on the same point of order, Mr. Speaker. May I say that the Leader of the Opposition left because he could not get any answers from the government.

Mr. Benson: I would simply like to say that it is very difficult to find out who the Leader of the Opposition is.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek can now see how argumentative his question was.

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, in answer to the question raised by the hon. member with respect to the speech I made outside the house, I would simply like him to read the whole speech, in which I said that no undue burden was placed upon either family businesses or farms through the changes in the estate tax. If he wants, I will send him a copy of the speech.

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is it not a fact that the minister believes that a special burden is placed on estates which are not made up of liquid assets?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will have to rule again that this is an argumentative question.

AGRICULTURE**POTATOES—SUPPORT TO ACREAGE PAYMENTS**

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the continued depression in the potato market in all of eastern Canada, and particularly in Prince Edward Island, I wonder if the Agriculture Stabilization Board is now giving consideration to special support to acreage payments, as given last year, in order to offset the difficult times which farmers will have in putting in a crop in the spring?

[Mr. Speaker.]

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge we have had no requests for that, to date, and therefore it is not under active consideration. However, the department is always ready to consider proposals of this nature.

HEALTH AND WELFARE**INCREASED ASSISTANCE FOR BLIND PERSONS**

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Has the minister received representations regarding increased assistance to blind persons, and what is being done about these representations?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I am not aware of any such representation of late, but I will check into the matter.

AGRICULTURE**DAIRY INDUSTRY—ABANDONMENT OF QUOTA SUBSIDY SYSTEM**

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the statement recently reported that the government's long term policy is to abandon the quota subsidy system presently in use for the dairy industry, would the minister consider making a statement regarding the alternatives he will propose?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I will send the hon. gentleman a copy of the speech. If he will read it I am sure he will find that what I said is that it is the government's policy to remove the need for subsidies and quotas.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: I will allow the hon. member to ask a supplementary question.

Mr. Gleave: I wish to direct it to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Would the minister consider tabling the results of the study on the nationalization of the dairy industry in Canada, and the development of a departmental program in this area, as mentioned in the department's annual reports of 1965 and 1966?