Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Baldwin: Was that question directed to the President of the Privy Council because of his attitude toward the Auditor General?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order. I had some doubts as to the validity of the original question by the hon. member for Ontario.

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

DAIRYING—REQUEST FOR MEETING OF MIN-ISTER AND MILK PRODUCERS TO RECONSIDER POLICY

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture.

I have here a copy of a resolution of the Union of Industrial Milk Producers of Joliette county that was sent to the Minister of Agriculture and in which they recommend that representatives of producers in Canada—I wonder why they added "and in Quebec"—should meet with the minister as soon as possible in order to discuss further the unfortunate dairy policy that is detrimental to Canadian dairy producers.

May I ask the minister if he will give an affirmative answer and give the assurance that the meeting will be held in the interest of milk producers?

[English]

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Certainly we would welcome a meeting of this kind. I have to disagree with the premise contained in the question that some of these policies are affecting certain producers more than others. What I suggest is that we would welcome a meeting attended not only by the producers from that particular county but by representatives of producers from all over Quebec as well as by the responsible provincial authorities in order that we might work out these problems.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Has the minister decided to give back the \$10 million subsidy to milk producers which they need so badly and which the government so unjustifiably took away from them?

Mr. Speaker: Order.
[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

MANPOWER

HOURS OF WORK OF STUDENTS EMPLOYED BY FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS

Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): Mr. Speaker, on April 23 I directed a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. I asked whether he was aware that some students worked in excess of 80 hours per week for federal departments last year and whether this would still be the policy of federal departments this year. The minister said he would check into this situation and report back to the House. Is he now in a position to answer my question?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): I have checked the information which the hon. member was good enough to provide but I have not yet had an opportunity to discuss the matter with the minister concerned. I shall do so as soon as he is in Ottawa.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

REPORTED PRESENCE OF FOREIGN SUB-MARINES IN ARCTIC WATERS

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): I wish to address a question to the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister assure us, in light of confirmation during the latter part of last week by the Commander, Maritime Command, of the presence of submarines in our Arctic waters—

An hon. Member: Whether they are causing pollution?

Mr. Forrestall: That is a good question, too—whether or not the presence of foreign submarines poses any danger or threat to our own activities in the north or to the country as a whole?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): This is a difficult question. Generally we approach these questions in a prudent fashion. I have no particular information leading me to suspect the presence of enemy submarines in the Arctic.

An hon. Member: Are we at war, then?

Mr. Forrestall: Is the minister not aware of the public statements which have been made by Admiral O'Brien about the presence of foreign submarines in these waters? If he is not aware of them, perhaps in the interest of the country I should send him some files so that he will know what is going on.