

ACTION TO DISCOURAGE PRICE INCREASE—
TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): I have a supplementary question in this connection, Mr. Speaker. Surely, it is not political pressure to suggest to the commissioner that while he is conducting his inquiry the price of agricultural implements is going up, and that he should give attention to this fact. Has the minister made any further representation to the agricultural implement companies to the effect that their conduct in raising prices while the commission is sitting is not in keeping with their national responsibility?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have met with representatives of these companies and I am going to see representatives individually in an attempt to find out whether their position in this regard can be reviewed.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): I have a supplementary question. About a week or two ago the minister said he would give consideration to tabling the letters he had received from the farm implement companies in reply to his appeal to them not to raise the prices of their products. Has the minister been able to come to a conclusion as to whether or not he can make that correspondence available to the house?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact I am going to see officials of these companies individually, I think it would be advisable not to make any decision about tabling those letters until after I have had the opportunity to meet them.

Mr. S. J. Korchinsky (Mackenzie): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to know whether, as a result of the fact the commission is inquiring into the price of farm machinery, we can expect no action from government benches until the commission reports?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, if action is possible and deemed appropriate by the government it will, of course, be announced in the house in the proper fashion.

*Inquiries of the Ministry***IMMIGRATION**CONDITIONS SURROUNDING ENTRY TO
CANADA OF MEXICAN
Mennonites

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I should like on behalf of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, as his acting minister to answer certain questions asked on November 7 and subsequently by the hon. member for Lisgar and other members regarding the admission to Canada of Mennonites from Mexico.

Although the departmental investigations are not yet complete, they have gone far enough to determine that the majority of these persons who came to Canada by truck are either Canadian citizens or persons with a claim to such Canadian citizenship. As is well known, Canadian citizens may return to Canada as a matter of right without any immigration, civil or medical examination of any kind. The immigration officials at the border could not have turned such groups back, whatever means of travel they may have seen fit to use.

Admittedly, some members of these groups had no proof of Canadian citizenship and therefore might have been considered as being subject to the usual immigration procedures. The investigations have disclosed that, without exception, these Mennonite people were Canadians or were accompanying members of their families who were either Canadians or who made claim to Canadian citizenship. The non-Canadians were allowed temporary entry as non-immigrants to allow them time to clarify their status.

I might say that the Mennonite groups which arrived by trucks were described by examining immigration officers as looking tired and travel worn, but there was no indication that they appeared to be suffering from any disease. Before any of them will be landed as Canadians, of course, they will be required to meet the usual immigrant medical requirements.

I might say that one of these Mennonite families was found to be suffering from dysentery. This is not uncommon in the case of people coming from Central or South America. Treatment was prescribed promptly in this case.

The minister expects further reports, but it is unlikely that these will change in substance the answer that I have just given.