

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[English]

**AGRICULTURE****FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR FARM SAFETY ORGANIZATION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey North):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare whether there is any farm safety organization in Canada supported by the federal government.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is the opinion of the Chair that this question should be placed on the order paper.

**Mr. Noble:** Mr. Speaker, this is supplementary. I think this is an important question and we should have an answer to it.

**Mr. Speaker:** I realize it is important in the view of the hon. member, and if he thinks it is a matter of urgency he has the recourse of discussing it in the adjournment debate.

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****INQUIRY AS TO EXTENSION TO FARM LABOUR**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question of urgency which I would like to direct to the Minister of Labour. I am informed by farmers and persons in agriculture that there is going to be a terrific shortage of farm labour this spring, and they attribute this to the fact that farm labour is not covered by unemployment insurance. Will the minister look into this serious problem?

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I gave an answer to the question to the hon. gentleman a few weeks ago. The matter is still being studied and as soon as we have anything to announce, since it involves government policy, it will be announced.

**Mr. Rapp:** Will that be before spring?

**HEALTH AND WELFARE****BRITISH COLUMBIA—ASSISTANCE IN VIRUS PNEUMONIA EPIDEMIC**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. D. W. Groos (Victoria (B.C.)):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Are the officials of the Department of National Health and Welfare keeping a close watch on the virus pneumonia epidemic which has been assuming alarming proportions in British Columbia? Two more deaths among school children were announced today. Would the department look into this matter with a view to

[Mr. Marchand.]

giving federal assistance, possibly in the form of a crash immunization program; or has the minister something to say on this?

**Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to discuss the problem with my officials and give an answer to the hon. gentleman later.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****ZAMBIA—SUGGESTED CANADIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM OIL AIRLIFT**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat):** In view of the substantial cost to Canadians of the oil lift into Zambia, and in view of the fact that the commonwealth committee studying these sanctions in London yesterday, or some of the countries on that committee, questioned the effectiveness of the oil sanctions, I would like to ask whether the Canadian government is considering withdrawing from this obligation; because at least in the minds of some countries it is a useless expense.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** No, Mr. Speaker.

**VIET NAM—REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO SEND CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS**

On the orders of the day:

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I presume the proper minister to whom I should direct this question would be the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I would ask him whether he and the Prime Minister have received communications in the last couple of days from an organization in Toronto, which states it has national connections, asking what is the attitude of the government of Canada regarding the voluntary enlistment in Canada of a corps for service in Viet Nam, serving under the aegis of the United States and under United States regulations.

What is the attitude of the government of Canada toward such a proposition?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, a Mr. Mitchell wrote to the Prime Minister and a Mr. Echlin to me about a month ago with regard to a proposition in the general terms stated by the Leader of the Opposition. We sought the opinion of the law officers of the Crown, who advised that under the Foreign Enlistment Act such a proposal would appear to be incompatible with the laws of Canada.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask whether the minister or the Prime