Inquiries of the Ministry

TRADE

the problem without simultaneously affecting the general freedom of expression of opinion in an adverse way.

Needless to say, all decent people deplore and despise such activities. The matter is still under active consideration, but I must confess that to date an acceptable and workable solution to the problem has not been devised. I want to add that I have received a communication concerning this matter from the Canadian Jewish Congress, and I will be meeting with representatives of that group on March 12 next.

With respect to the question raised by the hon. member for Cape Breton North and Victoria, a reply to the correspondence which I received from him is in the mail.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): May I ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Justice. I have seen some of this anti-Semitic material, and I ask the minister whether or not an offence has been committed, the offence of sedition, in certain of these articles. I wonder if the law as it now stands is not sufficient for a prosecution to be launched against those who within the country are distributing it. I am not speaking about those who send it from abroad. I can understand the difficulty there, but since it has been distributed within Canada I suggest that the law as it now stands should be looked into in that regard.

Mr. Favreau: I spoke of the feasibility of finding a broader formula which would apply in as many cases as possible. So far as the particular document to which the right hon. gentleman has just referred is concerned, I must say that the department is presently making a study as to whether or not the matter falls within the provisions of the present Criminal Code.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question supplementary to those asked concerning the hate literature, about which all of us feel very strongly. Pending a decision as to what to do about it, I wonder if I might congratulate the Post Office Department for the very happy thought that there appears on some of the literature which was sent out from Scarborough, Ontario, on February 15 an appropriate slogan. I have an envelope in which this literature came, and it bears the post office cancellation mark "Brotherhood Week-Believe it-Live it-Support it." I am sure all members of the house will be glad to know that this vicious anti-Semitic literature had, on the outside of the envelope, this suggestion and will be discussed not only with the that brotherhood was more important.

GATT-REQUEST FOR COMPOSITION OF DELEGA-TION REPRESENTING CANADA

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George C. Nowlan (Digby-Annapolis-Kings): Can the Minister of Trade and Commerce advise the house as to the composition of the delegation which will be representing Canada at the GATT negotiations which are opening in Geneva within the matter of a day or so, and who will be in charge of that delegation?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the GATT delegation representing Canada at the meetings that are opening, I think probably today or thereabouts, is being led by Mr. Warren, the assistant deputy minister of trade and commerce, who this year is also the chairman of the contracting parties. I expect I will be receiving a report from Mr. Warren tomorrow or the next day.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

HAL BANKS CASE-CHANGE IN TESTIMONY BY CROWN WITNESS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Colin Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I should like to direct to the Minister of Justice the same question I asked on Friday of the Minister of Labour, who quite rightly referred me to the Minister of Justice. Is the government contemplating any action with regard to the obvious perjury committed by the chief crown witness against Hal Banks, either at the trial or in his previous statements?

Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice): I am not in a position to inform the house today on this matter. I shall take the question as notice.

EDUCATION

LOANS TO STUDENTS-POSITION RESPECTING QUEBEC

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): My question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of the statement by Premier Lesage that loans to university students would constitute an infringement on provincial rights, will the province of Quebec be allowed to option out of this plan and be compensated at the same time?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): This matter is presently under consideration, province of Quebec but with other provinces.