

*Oral Questions*

particular time, troops are moving back and forth along the border between El Salvador and Honduras. There have been incursions into Nicaragua out of Honduras and military bases in Honduras are supplying soldiers for an attack on Nicaragua. Given those facts, is the Minister prepared to stop those permits until the situation is cleared up?

**Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Madam Speaker, I will certainly be pleased to look into that situation, but I will remind the hon. member that Buffalo aircraft are not military aircraft, and it is extremely unlikely that a permit to export Buffalo aircraft would have anything to do with the problems which exist in Central America at the present time.

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**AGRICULTURE****INCREASE IN POTATO INSPECTION FEE—REQUEST FOR ROLLBACK**

**Mr. Mel Gass (Malpeque):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board. Last week Agriculture Canada announced that, effective July 19, there would be an increase in the cost to potato farmers for the charge of table stock inspection for export, from \$6 a carload to 8 cents per hundredweight, an increase of 1200 per cent. On July 20 the President of the Treasury Board announced that price restraint in the federal public sector will apply to all prices established under federal jurisdiction, and any increase higher than the 6 per cent ceiling which was not implemented before June 28 will be rolled back. There have been numerous letters and telegrams. Could the minister advise the House and the potato producers of P.E.I. and New Brunswick whether he will allow this 1200 per cent increase, or will he be true to his own words and roll it back to 6 per cent?

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (President of the Treasury Board):** Madam Speaker, questions involving prices falling within the jurisdiction of a particular ministry should be addressed to the responsible minister in each case; in this case, the Minister of Agriculture.

**Mr. Clark:** Is there a policy?

**MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**

**Mr. Mel Gass (Malpeque):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question will be directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. The Minister of Agriculture is announcing one policy of a 1200 per cent increase, and the President of the Treasury Board is announcing an increase of no more than 6 per cent. Will the Prime Minister tell the potato producers of P.E.I. and New Brunswick which minister they are expected to believe?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I will take notice of the question.

• (1450)

**GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES****COST OF ALL-STAR BASEBALL GAME RECEPTION**

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State. Less than two weeks after the Minister of Finance brought down his budget in which he announced that the average senior citizens of Canada would be expected to accept a cut in their standard of living next year, the Secretary of State, in conjunction with the Minister of State for Small Business threw a lavish party in Montreal, paid for by the taxpayers, for the All-Star baseball game, at which French wine, free liquor, roast beef, lobster, rice and other delicacies were featured. Can the Secretary of State confirm to the House, as has been indicated to the London *Free Press* by one of his aides, that the cost to the taxpayer for this lavish extravaganza will be \$100,000?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Secretary of State):** Madam Speaker, I am unable to confirm any such figure for the hon. member. Through you I can tell him that part of the fact is that for the first time in history the All-Star game between the American and National Leagues was held in Canada, and the meetings of the leagues that are associated with that were attended by a very large number of visitors from outside this country, as is the case with any convention. In such circumstances it is customary to help attract attention, by the federal, provincial and municipal governments extending a degree of hospitality. For instance, the Government of Quebec put on very extensive receptions and buffet dinners before and after the game; the city of Montreal also undertook certain responsibilities.

Through the various Departments of the Government of Canada that were involved, Canada undertook to extend some hospitality, recognizing the presence of 600 foreign journalists; recognizing the presence of leaders of amateur baseball from all of the major baseball countries, as well as Canadian officials, and recognizing the unique opportunity to attract attention to Canada during the height of the tourist season, before the largest television audience that could ever be achieved under such circumstances.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Regan:** Since the hon. member puts himself forward as being an expert on advertising, perhaps he would want to review the amount of favourable publicity at the destination point for visitors that Canada achieved as a consequence of the publicity we received, without having to buy space or television time. I will undertake to assure the hon. member that the program of providing such hospitality is very good business for Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!