

to the preparatory world trade conference? At the same time will he indicate what instructions were given to the Canadian delegation, and what attitude was taken by that delegation? Also who will be the Canadian representatives to the next trade conference, and what instructions will they be given by the government?

Hon. J. A. MacKINNON (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I received a copy of the hon. gentleman's question just as I came into the chamber and have not had an opportunity to inform him that the question should have been directed to my colleague the Secretary of State for External Affairs, to whom I have given a copy of the question.

FOOD PRODUCTS

SALE OF HOG PRODUCTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM —IMPORTS OF NEW ZEALAND BUTTER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. MARK C. SENN (Haldimand): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture to lay on the table of the house as soon as possible copy of the latest agreement for the sale of hog products to the United Kingdom. Will he also acquaint the house with the arrangements made for the importation of New Zealand butter, particularly as to the amount to be imported, the price laid down in Canada, and the price which will be charged to the consumer?

Right Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture): I shall be pleased to have a copy of the agreement with regard to hogs tabled as soon as possible. The other question is one which I think I can answer in a few words. Arrangements have been made to have an amount of butter brought into Canada from New Zealand and Australia as a result of the discussions that took place between the government of Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, in order to make it possible to have the distribution of butter made in Canada which is provided for under the present rationing regulations. The amount which is brought in would only be sufficient to make that possible to May 1.

Mr. SENN: Can the minister give any idea what the price will be?

Mr. GARDINER: The price of the butter laid down at the port will range from 38 to 48 cents. The butter which comes direct from New Zealand or Australia will be laid down at around 38 cents a pound, and that which comes by way of Britain will probably be in the neighbourhood of 48 cents.

NITROGEN PRODUCTS

CORRESPONDENCE RESPECTING WELLAND CHEMICAL WORKS AND ALBERTA NITROGEN PRODUCTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. P. E. WRIGHT (Melfort): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Reconstruction. In view of recent radio reports of criticisms by Canadian Federation of Agriculture officials with regard to the disposal of the Welland Chemical Works Limited and the Alberta Nitrogen Products of Calgary, can the minister inform the house of any negotiations that might have taken place between the Canadian Federation of Agriculture or others and the government with respect to the retention of either or both these plants under government orders?

Right Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Reconstruction and Supply): I shall be pleased to table the correspondence that took place. I believe letters were exchanged and I shall be glad to table them at an early day.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

INQUIRY AS TO THE READING OF SPEECHES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. A. CRUICKSHANK (Fraser Valley): Just so that this side of the house may not be left out entirely, Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask if the rule is to be enforced after today that members may not read speeches written for them by somebody else?

INQUIRY AS TO REVISION OF STANDING ORDERS

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Peel): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister which has to do with a matter that came up in the house on the closing day of the last session concerning a revision of the rules of the house and the conduct of the business of parliament? Will the Prime Minister give consideration at an early stage of this session, because it would be useless at a late stage, either to setting up again the special committee on the rules which was set up last year and whose report seemed to get lost, or perhaps better, to having a conference between the parties in the house with a view to devising a better system for dealing with the business of parliament this session, particularly in regard to the submission of departmental estimates, or some of them at least, to committees of this house for consideration. There were 647 items in the estimates last year under thirty-one departments of government; I presume there will be about the same this year, and in view of the tremendous expansion in the business with which parliament has to deal I urge the government