

Inquiries of the Ministry

to the Prime Minister. Could the Prime Minister tell us what course the Government intends to pursue with regard to its proposed changes in the procedures of this House? Will its proposals be brought directly to the House for action, and will the Special Committee on Procedure and Organization be re-established so the Government's proposals can be referred to that committee?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, that matter is under consideration. It was discussed this morning, and as soon as I can possibly do so I will make a report to the House on the procedures which I suggest should be followed in this important matter.

Mr. Knowles: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether the Prime Minister would consider consulting with representatives of other parties before a decision is made, in view of the fact that this is a House of Commons matter with which we are all concerned.

Mr. Pearson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I think that is a good idea, and we should discuss it with representatives of all the parties.

COMPANY OF YOUNG CANADIANS

INQUIRY AS TO ASSOCIATION WITH EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. In relation to the government's announced intention of setting up some kind of peace corps for young Canadians, could the Prime Minister tell the house what he envisages as the future role of the Canadian University Students Overseas, CUSO?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the details of this matter have not yet been worked out, but I can say it is the hope of the government to include in the Company of Young Canadians those who are already working in this field overseas. It may be desirable to do this without interfering with the organizations under which they are now working to bring them into association with the other organization and give those university organizations—I can think of one—the support I think they should have.

Mr. Aiken: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would this mean that CUSO might be integrated, then, with this new corps?

[Mr. Knowles.]

Mr. Pearson: We would want to discuss that with those who have been responsible for CUSO and have done such fine work in building it up.

AGRICULTURE

QUEBEC—ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture.

Does he intend to answer soon the request from the Quebec minister of agriculture for assistance to farmers in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue-Lake St. John area whose crops were ruined by bad weather last year?

[Text]

Hon. Harry W. Hays (Minister of Agriculture): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

TRADE

INQUIRY AS TO EXTENSION OF FREE TRADE POLICY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address my question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. It arises from a statement he made while addressing the Canadian Importers Association in Toronto last evening. He said, very briefly:

Canada, with its limited population, can evidently not support the entire range of diversified products demanded by its consumers. Nor can it afford the cost of entering into research in design and technological improvement for all product lines.

Is the government intending, with this assumption, to extend the free trade policy that is set out in the Canada-U.S. auto treaty to other industries such as clothing, textiles, appliances and aircraft?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the negotiations for further reductions in Canadian tariffs will be made in the multilateral negotiations now proceeding in Geneva under the Kennedy round. I am not in a position, of course, to reveal any negotiations which have taken place, which is the position taken by all participating countries.

Mr. Hales: A supplementary question. Would the Minister like to say whether arrangements have been made with the furniture manufacturers along this same line?