

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

minister tell the house whether the companies have complied with his request, and whether they have kept within the guide lines outlined by him at that time?

**Mr. Greene:** At the time, I believe it was about this time last year, the problem was very serious and I called in representatives and executives of the farm machinery companies. The general basis of contemplated price increases was under 5 per cent, which seemed to be justifiable in view of the increased labour and material costs that they were able to present to me. Until very recently I believe they operated within this framework. I have recently received complaints that they have gone beyond this framework, and the matter is being investigated by my office at the present time.

[Translation]

**AGRICULTURE****QUEBEC—PAYMENT OF SUBSIDY TO POTATO GROWERS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Can he tell us whether subsidies were paid to Quebec potato producers for surpluses in storage in the spring of 1967 and, if such is the case, what was the amount paid or available for that purpose?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I think that this question could easily be placed on the order paper.

**Mr. Laprise:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I think it is a matter of great urgency since the crop for the current year is already available, and if last year's subsidies have not yet been paid, I think it is about time to do so.

[English]

**PUBLIC WORKS****CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING IN OTTAWA**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. George Hees (Northumberland):** Mr. Speaker, I wanted to direct my question to the Minister of Public Works, but in his absence I will direct it to the minister's parliamentary secretary and ask him to bring it to the minister's attention when he returns. Would the minister give consideration to presenting at the earliest possible moment the

[Mr. Douglas.]

government's plans for the construction of the new complex to house the Department of National Defence here in Ottawa. The architects and consulting engineers working on the program for the government describe it as a \$100 million construction project to start in the next fiscal year.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****MIDDLE EAST—DECISION OF U.S. TO RESUME ARMS SHIPMENTS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. L. R. Sherman (Winnipeg South):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Will the government use its good offices to obtain from the United States, either at the United Nations or in the forum of world opinion, an explanation of its decision to resume arms shipments to Israel and five Arab countries in the Middle East?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Yes, sir.

**WATER RESOURCES****STUDIES OF SASKATCHEWAN AND NELSON RIVERS—DUPLICATION OF PERSONNEL**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. I ask the minister whether he has any plans to lend part of his expert personnel from the P.F.R.A. offices to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources in order to conduct the Saskatchewan-Nelson rivers study, thus avoiding the duplication of personnel within departments.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is making a submission. I do not think it should be made in the form of a question.

**Mr. Korchinski:** Mr. Speaker, may I point out with all due respect that unless some definite answer is given immediately the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources could resort to employing people right now, which might not be necessary.

[Later:]

**Mr. Korchinski:** I should like to direct a question either to the Minister of Finance or to the President of the Treasury Board, and ask either of them whether in the course of their study of the estimated expenditures their attention was drawn to the fact that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is