

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Opposition received the telegram before I did; I have not seen it yet.

**An hon. Member:** Go to your office.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, I am shocked that the minister does not know what is going on. May I redirect the question to the Acting Prime Minister; at least he must be aware of what is going on.

In light of the allegation by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture that the government has made no response to the proposals submitted by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture on May 28, almost two months ago, will the minister say what decision is being made in regard to their proposals of May 28 which are referred to in the telegram to which I have just alluded? Are the proposals still under consideration and, if so, when may we expect a statement?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is quite correct. The proposals that were put forward by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture are still under consideration.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, in view of this situation may I direct a question to the genial President of the Privy Council. In light of the situation disclosed a few days ago by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and referred to in the telegram from the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, and in view of the emergency situation on the prairies, will the President of the Privy Council now agree to consult with the opposition parties in order that arrangements can be made to provide during the next few days one of the opposition allotted days so that special consideration can be given to the emergency at a time when the appropriate minister is in the house?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated yesterday, I would be glad to arrange for a discussion of this kind as soon as the rules debate is disposed of. If the hon. gentleman has any influence with his colleagues, perhaps he might persuade them to bring that matter to a head.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, I think it is preposterous that we cannot have a debate on this important subject.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Stanfield:** With your co-operation, Mr. Speaker, I will meet the minister here tomorrow night at ten o'clock.

**Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. Since apparently no plans have been made to comply with requests of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, is the Prime Minister in the course of his western tour prepared to meet representatives of that organization?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the Prime Minister will meet a number of companies and others who are members of the Federation of Agriculture. But his chief purpose in going out west is to meet the people of western Canada and not organized groups.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** He is staying away from the people.

**Mr. Gleave:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the government aware that in western Canada there are two substantial farm organizations, namely, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the National Farmers Union?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I do not think that supplementary is in order.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since members of the cabinet seem to take the attitude that the present situation in western Canada is one they may treat with jocularly and contempt—

**Mr. McIlraith:** Withdraw, withdraw!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** You know better than that.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. McIlraith:** Withdraw!

**Mr. Speaker:** Perhaps, with those introductory remarks, the right hon. gentleman might ask his question.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Now that it has been established that the cabinet does not hold that view I am hopeful of obtaining a favourable answer from the adamant President of the Privy Council. Will he adjourn the debate on the rules so that something may be done to meet the serious situation on the prairies which has been cavalierly brushed aside by the government?