

Inquiries of the Ministry

by Italy on processed food entering Canada, is the government contemplating any immediate action to protect Canadian food processors and producers against this type of unfair, subsidized competition?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we have had meetings with the organizations in various processing areas. Certainly the government has under advisement the problems with respect to imports into Canada of processed foods which are in fact subsidized by the countries from which they emanate. We will certainly consider very seriously appropriate action to protect our processors and primary producers from any unfair competition in this regard, and any such action will of course be announced in the proper manner.

[Later:]

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent (Ont.)): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture arising out of a question put to the minister today regarding the importation of subsidized processed fruits and vegetables. Have any conferences or consultations been arranged with the governments concerned with a view to establishing voluntary quotas or the reassessment of previous trade agreements?

Mr. Greene: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. David MacDonald (Prince): May I ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Agriculture. Can he inform the house whether his department is giving consideration to the setting up of a central marketing board for all agricultural products?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This also is a very general question which should not be asked at this time.

INDUSTRY**COPPER—PRICE INCREASE BY
NORANDA COMPANY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance in connection with his promise a week ago that an investigation would be made into the action of the Noranda mining company in raising the price of copper. In view of the fact that since that time they have changed the formula but the price is still fixed at 51 cents and in view of the fact that the Hudson Bay Mining and [Mr. Irvine.]

Smelting Company has now instituted a similar action, may I ask the minister two questions; first, is the investigation continuing in spite of this change of formula, and second, will it include as well the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. gentleman knows the Noranda company changed the formula under which they were going to price copper. They were going to relate the price of copper to the price in the United States. I felt that this was hardly consistent with the statement they made that they had increased prices in Canada because of internal inflationary conditions here.

We are continuing to make inquiries about the basis for the increase in price to 51 cents, the price at which it is now fixed, and the actions of other companies.

Mr. Douglas: May I ask the Minister of Finance when he thinks such an investigation will be completed?

Mr. Sharp: I cannot answer this question, Mr. Speaker, because this is a matter which I should also like to discuss with my colleague the Minister of Trade and Commerce, who is directly concerned.

NATIONAL CAPITAL**REPORTED PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH
BILINGUAL FEDERAL DISTRICT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister. Is it the intention of the government to propose next January the establishment of Ottawa as a bilingual federal district, as announced by the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources in Hamilton last Friday?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that the question is not urgent and could be placed on the order paper.

CANADA PENSION PLAN**MEETING OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE
IN OTTAWA**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. E. Pascoe (Moose Jaw-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. The advisory committee on the Canada Pension