

to show that the United States parent companies of concerns operating in Canada were forbidding their Canadian branches to take part in Expo '67?

Does the minister intend to do something in that case?

[Text]

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I have had considerable experience in discussing this matter with both Canadian companies and their United States parents. I do not think that is a fair representation of the position United States parent companies are taking. I am quite confident that when Expo '67 opens in Montreal in April of 1967 there will be a good representation of Canadian companies, whether they are owned in Canada or elsewhere.

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to take advantage of this opportunity to ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce if he has reconsidered inviting the People's Republic of China to take part in the 1967 World Fair.

Mr. Sharp: Yes, Mr. Speaker, very careful consideration was given to this matter some time ago. I reported at that time on the considerations that led both Expo and the Government to believe that this would be contrary to the practice followed in these matters, and that it would be very difficult indeed for Canada to invite to participate in Expo the government of a country that we do not at present recognize.

Mr. Hamilton: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the Minister of Trade and Commerce received any objection from individual countries against extending an invitation to the Republic of China, which buys \$150 million of our wheat each year?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I know of one country that has accepted an invitation to participate which would object very strongly indeed, and I hardly need mention it here. But I can assure my hon. friend that this matter was given the most careful and serious consideration, and the decision which was made was in accordance with the practices followed in universal and international expositions of the kind we are holding in Montreal in 1967.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In the absence of an invitation, would the Expo authorities look favourably on an application

from the government of mainland China to exhibit at this fair?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, there has been no application. I think it is not customary to answer hypothetical questions of this kind, but if the hon. gentleman will look at the answers I have given in the past and the answers that have been given by Expo '67 he will see that, as I have already said, it would not be in accordance with the practice of exhibitions of this kind for Canada to invite a country which we do not recognize internationally.

AGRICULTURE

FOOD RESEARCH OPEN HOUSE—SIGNS IN ENGLISH ONLY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Alexis Caron (Hull): Mr. Speaker, I read in *Le Droit* of the day before yesterday that an exhibition of foodstuffs is taking place. The article is headed "Open House for English Speaking Canadians". Apparently the exhibition is only for English speaking Canadians because the signs are not in French and English. Is this a fact, and has anything been done to correct the situation?

Hon. Harry W. Hays (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I want to express my personal regret over the fact that only one of our official languages was used on the display signs at our food research open house. I noticed this when I went to the official opening, and I have instructed the responsible officials of my department to correct the situation.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

INQUIRY AS TO SITTING ON MONDAY, MAY 24

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Government House Leader. So far as sittings of the House are concerned, what are the plans for Monday, May 24?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, under the Standing Orders as amended last session Monday, May 24 is a holiday for the House. Therefore the House will not sit on that day unless some order is made that it should sit. We do not propose bringing forward any such order for the consideration of the House.