

Inquiries of the Ministry

price drop? At the present time the wholesaler gets more for grading and packaging the eggs than the producer receives.

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. member put this on the order paper.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**INQUIRY AS TO AMENDMENTS RESPECTING FUND**

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Hon. Théogène Ricard (St. Hyacinthe-Bagot): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Since more than half a million Canadians are receiving unemployment insurance benefits, could the minister tell us what is the present financial position of the unemployment insurance fund?

[Text]

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to answer this question, which is statistical, if my hon. friend would put it on the order paper.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): In this connection, Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the rehabilitation of the bankrupt unemployment insurance fund was spoken of as one of the priorities, I would like to ask the minister is it just a matter of coincidence that it did not appear on the list of matters to receive attention before the summer recess?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the intention of the government with respect to action in the way of amending the unemployment insurance fund was stated by the Prime Minister during the debate on the address in reply, and no change has taken place with respect to that declared by the Prime Minister.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That still does not answer the question. Is it the intention of the government to bring in any measure before the summer recess to rehabilitate that fund?

An hon. Member: What recess?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the parrots over there could be kept quiet.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It is quite impossible for the Chair to hear the questions unless there is better order.

[Mr. Rapp.]

URANIUM**DISPOSITION OF UNFILLED PORTION OF GUNNAR MINES CONTRACT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a perfectly proper question to the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. I apologize for not giving more notice, but the question got immersed in the Columbia river documents. Would the parliamentary secretary inform the house what is the government's intention with respect to the disposition of 1,200,000 pounds of uranium oxide from the Gunnar Mines unfilled contract?

Mr. Speaker: Important as the question is, surely it is not the type that should be asked at this time. Would the hon. member put his important question on the order paper.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give notice to have a go at ten o'clock.

COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS**TRINIDAD—CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER CLOSER TIES WITH CANADA**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Albert): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is the minister aware that on Monday the prime minister of Trinidad announced details of a high level conference this year on closer ties with Canada? If so, can we have the details here, and can we be assured that the government will take an enthusiastic part in such a conference?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the announcement or story of which my hon. friend spoke. When the prime minister of Trinidad was in Ottawa, the Prime Minister of Canada and I had some discussions with him on closer relations with the Caribbean commonwealth countries. Consideration is being given to this matter, and when it has been formally discussed with all of the countries concerned we may be in a position to make a more definite statement.

Mr. Bell: Is the minister aware that the serious-minded President of the Privy Council advocated closer ties for many years, which could amount to a promise by the government to get moving in connection with this most important matter which is of special urgency now because of the transformation through which the West Indies are passing?