

Democratic Party for the confidence he honours me with, and I will take his representation under consideration.

[Translation]

INDUSTRY

FOOTWEAR—STEPS TO RELIEVE DIFFICULTIES

Mr. Romuald Rodrigue (Beauce): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the precarious condition of the footwear industry, does the minister intend to announce to the House in the near future what steps will be taken to assist that industry?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to make such a promise, because certain reforms must first be made in the footwear sector. I would like to meet in that connection the officials of that industry and I believe that I will be doing so in a few days.

[English]

FINANCE

FREEDING OF DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE—COMPENSATION TO WESTERN FARMERS FOR DROP IN PRICE OF WHEAT

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Yesterday he stated that as a counter-irritant, as it were, action would be taken from time to time to meet any ill effects that might result from the action taken on Sunday and announced by him yesterday. In view of the fact that the price of wheat fell six cents yesterday in consequence of the action of the government, is it the intention of the government to compensate the western farmer for that amount which actually comes out of his pocket?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will allow the minister to reply to the question if he thinks he should reply, but I have to bring to the attention of the right hon. gentleman that the Leader of the Opposition sought to ask a question on this matter a moment ago. It was suggested that in view of the fact that there is to be a special debate later today, perhaps all these questions might be put and speeches made and replies given then, and that we should not embark on a series of questions at this time. The question having been asked, perhaps the minister might reply briefly, but again I would respectfully make the sugges-

Inquiries of the Ministry

tion to hon. members that we might keep this in mind during the course of the question period.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, you have given permission to the minister to answer and I am sure he will be first to take advantage of that opportunity.

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Tonight.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

MIDDLE EAST—USE OF CANADIAN ARMED FORCES IN PEACEKEEPING ROLE

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has the Canadian government been approached with a request for Canadian Armed Forces to serve in a peacekeeping role in the Middle East?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker.

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Acting Government House Leader if he can give a categorical assurance that the report of the Special Committee on Statutory Instruments presented some time ago will be implemented this session in time to become effective at the beginning of next session?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Baldwin: Will the Acting House Leader or the real thing—I mean the permanent House Leader when he comes along—make a short statement indicating why the government is afraid to implement the Committee's proposals which impose such a wholesome restraint upon excessive and dictatorial government authority?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question is asked in terms which make it difficult for the Chair to permit a reply.

Mr. Brewin: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Of course, the question not having been allowed it is difficult to permit a supplementary. Perhaps the hon. member might like to ask a related question.