

the matter for the hon. member and get back to him. The point is indeed an interesting one and probably well taken. I will be delighted to look into the matter further on his behalf.

Mr. Lambert: Will the minister indicate in his reply, whether it be by letter or in the House, at the earliest opportunity what rationale there is for the discrimination which exists against applicants of Chinese origin signing not only their application forms but also possibly signing their citizenship forms in Chinese script?

Mr. Fox: Yes, Madam Speaker. It is quite clear that we would not want to be in the position of discriminating against any Canadian citizens, whether new Canadian citizens or those who have been citizens of this country for a long time. Once again, I will be delighted to look into the matter, on behalf of the hon. member, in the spirit in which he has indicated.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

INCREASE IN PRICE OF SUGAR—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE OF NO PROFITEERING BY SUGAR COMPANIES

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, giving him an opportunity to do something now for consumers. As the minister knows, the Agriculture Canada food price index came out yesterday, showing that food prices have increased by 2.3 per cent, May 15 to June 15. Sugar prices, in particular, went up by some 7 per cent, reflecting an increase of 200 per cent to 300 per cent over the last few months.

Can the minister assure the House that there has been no profiteering by sugar companies in this country, or can he tell the House that he is contemplating an investigation into the sugar companies of this country because of the tremendous price increases we have seen in the last few months?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Postmaster General): It is obvious, Madam Speaker, that in reply to the first part of the question, I cannot give that assurance.

[English]

Mr. Nystrom: The minister replied in a very sugary way to the first part of my question, but he cannot give an assurance that there has not been profiteering by the sugar companies and speculators in this country, despite an increase of 200 per cent to 300 per cent in a few months.

In view of his admission, will the minister now consider launching an investigation into whether there has been some price-fixing or profiteering by sugar companies in this country? If he cannot give the assurance that there has not been profiteering, will he at least give us an assurance that he will

Point of Order—Mr. MacEachen

launch an investigation to see whether there has been profiteering or price-fixing?

[Translation]

Mr. Ouellet: Madam Speaker, of course we are aware of the recent sugar price increases. The officials of my department are watching the matter with the same traditional and proverbial interest.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

[Translation]

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the following communication has been received:

Government House
Ottawa

June 27, 1980

Madam,

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable W. R. McIntyre, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 27th day of June, at 4.45 p.m., for the purpose of giving royal assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be,
Madam,
Your obedient servant,
Edmond Joly de Lotbinière
Administrative Secretary
to the Governor General

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

BOYCOTT OF MOSCOW OLYMPIC GAMES—CARRYING OF OLYMPIC FLAG DURING OPENING CEREMONIES

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order to clarify the situation for the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald). I want to tell her that I have checked further into the situation and the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) was consulted in London about the intention to send two representatives with the flag, and he concurred in that proposal.

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): On the same point of order, Madam Speaker. That, of course, is the question I was presenting initially. The minister responsible for