

Inquiries of the Ministry

Has the minister any further statement to make at the present time regarding the disposition of potatoes which have been purchased by the Agricultural Stabilization Board in light of the resolution forwarded to him by the Prince Edward Island legislature on the matter?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I do not think I will be making a statement today. However, we are taking note of that resolution and also some other representations that have been made by the Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture. Perhaps by tomorrow or Wednesday I shall be able to give a more definitive reply.

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NATIONAL CAPITAL**GOVERNMENT POSITION ON RECOMMENDATION OF
JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION**

Mr. D. Gordon Blair (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the recommendation made by the Joint Committee on the Constitution about the future governing of the national capital region, can the minister state whether the government is prepared to deal with this recommendation and whether it is in favour of it?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, like any House committee report we are studying the whole of the report and certainly its recommendations relating to the national capital will be studied very carefully by me. They are interesting recommendations which make a useful contribution to the debate on the subject, but before making a careful study I would not want to commit myself one way or another on them. I am glad the mistake regarding some wording in the report has been cleared up. I would think that at some appropriate time in the future the whole question of the operations of the National Capital Commission could well be studied by a House and Senate committee that would examine all the issues surrounding the National Capital Commission.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Did you say yes, no, or maybe?

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**POSSIBLE OPENING OF MISSIONS IN ZAMBIA AND
BARBADOS**

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Now that we have re-entered the big spending spree era, can the minister indicate whether it is his intention to open missions in Zambia and Barbados?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there are a number of recommendations before cabinet now dealing with the opening of some missions. We have the usual financial constraints that I know are supported by members of the opposition,

[Mr. MacLean.]

but within those limits I hope we will be able to make progress.

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GRAIN**SUGGESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL
TERMINAL ELEVATORS AT PRINCE RUPERT TO RELIEVE
PRESSURE ON EXISTING EXPORT FACILITIES**

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, the other day I asked the right hon. Prime Minister about the operations of the Wheat Board or the Department of Finance with respect to allocating funds for an enlargement of or addition to the Canadian government grain elevator facilities in the port of Prince Rupert. May I ask the Minister of Justice whether he has any plans this year to provide funds for such an expansion or enlargement?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, with the record movements of grain going out from the west coast an attempt is being made to use the present facilities in Prince Rupert to a maximum. We are looking at a number of alternatives for increasing that capacity, including the question of whether moving clean grain will increase the over-all working capacity. In addition, my colleague the Minister of Transport has under very active consideration steps which might permit the enlargement of the capacity or the facility itself.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): In light of the latter part of the answer about increasing the capacity of that port for grain shipment, could the minister put any timetable on that? Would he be prepared to say it would be before the end of this fiscal year or before the Minister of Finance introduces his first budget?

Mr. Speaker: Apparently the matter is being considered by the minister. In the meantime the Chair will recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**VIEW OF ACTING MINISTER OF MANPOWER AND
IMMIGRATION AS TO POTENTIAL**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Acting Minister of Manpower and Immigration whether it is his view that the economy is right at potential?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question, of course, is not in order. I am sure the hon. Leader of the Opposition knows that he cannot ask a question of that kind which is merely an invitation to express an opinion.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I am seeking the view of the government with regard to its economic policies and, with every respect, I would therefore suggest that it is proper to ask the Acting Minister of Manpower and Immigration whether it is his position that the economy is right at potential, particularly in view of the large amount of unemployment.