NORTHERN AFFAIRS

HAINES CUT-OFF—U.S. OFFER OF WINTER MAINTENANCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources whether he has yet had a reply from the government of the state of Alaska to the counter offer of the Canadian government?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, I informed the house yesterday that we had made an offer to the government of the state of Alaska in the same amount of money and on the same terms, namely one year's test for keeping the highway open this coming winter. I have a wire here, and I do not think I can do better than read the wire I have received from Governor Egan:

Have received your telegraphic notification that your government ready participate with state of Alaska in winter maintenance of the Haines road between miles 48 and 94 on the same one year trial basis as the winter of 1963-64 providing for the payment of \$127,050 in U.S. funds. As governor of Alaska this message is formal acceptance of agreement as stated in your telegram. We intend prepare for winter maintenance prior to signing written formal agreement as last year for signatures at earliest possible date.

Mr. Nielsen: May I ask a related question, Mr. Speaker. I ask the minister whether he can state the view of the Canadian government on the statement of Premier Bennett proposing a plebiscite of the people of the Yukon for the taking over of that territory by the province of British Columbia.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Later:]

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. This question has just dawned on me as the result of an answer given by the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources to an hon. member on this side of the house, which answer indicated that the government of Canada had been in direct negotiation with a state of the United States in regard to coming to an agreement.

I would like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs this question. Is not this a violation of the principles of protocol and a trespass upon his jurisdiction, when these matters should be considered between the government of Canada and the government of the United States and vice versa,

Inquiries of the Ministry

and not between a government and a state or a province and a state?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend knows perfectly well that the relations between one country and another are normally undertaken through the foreign offices of both governments. But with regard to what has happened in this transaction, nothing has been done that necessarily ignores that situation.

Mr. Knowles: It is a precedent, though.

AGRICULTURE

DAIRY PRODUCTS—CONSIDERATION OF EXPORT SUBSIDY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Moore (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture which he may like to take as notice. In view of the reference by Mr. A. B. Williams, chief of the federal stabilization board of the Department of Agriculture, to the plight of the Canadian dairy farmer in his inability to compete profitably in abundant but low priced foreign markets, what consideration is the government giving to the fact that if Canada wants to export dairy products, subsidies will have to be paid to the producers to compensate for the lower prices that are essential for sales abroad? In general, when will the minister be announcing a new policy?

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

TURKEYS—REIMPOSITION OF QUOTAS ON IMPORTS FROM U.S.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Realizing that the minister has had recent consultations with the Canadian turkey producers in regard to their request for an embargo or curtailment of imports, would the minister say what his advice was to these people at that time?

Mr. Speaker: Is there any particular urgency in this question?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: If not, would the hon. member put it on the order paper.

Mr. Winkler: It has been a contentious question, Mr. Speaker, and I think the minister was ready to reply.