

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Agriculture a supplementary question, based on the suggestion that recent events have accelerated the movements of the government.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Is the minister making arrangements for himself and his colleagues to meet with the liaison committee of western farmers before the end of this session?

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, in the terms used by the hon. member for Essex East, the movements of the government do not need any acceleration.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Provincial elections have had a tremendous effect.

Mr. Harkness: This matter certainly will be looked after in due course.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): My question was, was the minister or his colleagues going to meet with the liaison committee of western farmers before the end of the session?

Mr. Harkness: Mr. Speaker, I have nothing further to add to the various statements which the Prime Minister and I have made from time to time in this house during the past month or more in connection with meeting with the liaison committee.

TRADEJAPAN—INQUIRY AS TO PROGRESS IN
IMPORT NEGOTIATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Finance. Can the minister comment on what progress is being made in import negotiations with the Japanese regarding items of a sensitive nature, as mentioned previously by him?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): There have been further negotiations with respect to imports of some products where those have not been in accord with the declared policy of orderly development of trade. Just yesterday I received a letter from the ambassador of Japan, written to me on his return to Canada from Tokyo, which concerns the application by the government of Japan of export quotas on shipments of hardwood plywood to Canada in the year 1960.

Since the letters he wrote to me two months ago in connection with shipments of textile

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

products were tabled, I shall be glad, if it is the wish of the house, to table copies of this letter dated July 6, which was handed to me yesterday by the ambassador.

I may add that negotiations are continuing with respect to the application of quotas on a number of other commodities concerning which, as I have said, shipments have exceeded what could properly be described as an orderly growth of trade.

WATER RESOURCESBOW LAKE, ONT.—STATEMENT ON REPORTED
POLLUTION BY RADIOACTIVE WASTE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Assiniboia asked me a question relating to the possible presence of radioactive waste in Bow lake, Ontario. I am informed that regular sampling of the water of Bow lake for uranium and radium is carried out by the division of industrial hygiene of the Ontario department of health. The Ontario water resources commission also makes certain examinations of a bacteriological and chemical nature. Although the officers of the Department of National Health and Welfare are informed about the laboratory tests being made, they are not directly involved in this matter, which is under the close control of Ontario provincial authorities. I am further advised that the matter is before the mining court of Ontario in proceedings in which the company and the local complainants are represented.

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): I should like to get a clarification of government policy. Is it not the usual policy of the federal government to keep tab on the whole question of contamination? Does the federal government not have the authority to take action to prevent contamination of lakes and streams?

Mr. Monteith (Perth): I understand there is over-all authority under the Atomic Energy Control Act to issue a permit to a mine, but incidentally, there is also provision that any applicable provincial statutes or regulations that deal with mine safety and cognate matters are to be observed and complied with. As a result the provincial statute then applies.

Mr. Argue: In other words there is no action taken by the federal government to protect Canadians from pollution. That is shameful.