

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Sharp: It had always been understood that these payments were temporary. There was no agreement to continue them indefinitely. They were related in part to the successful negotiation of an international sugar agreement, which took place, and it was in light of these circumstances, and what we felt were the needs of the Caribbean countries for extra funds for agricultural development, that we made this decision.

Mr. Fairweather: Mr. Speaker, this is most informative, but could the minister answer my question? Was the decision taken after consultation or was it taken unilaterally?

Mr. Sharp: It was unilaterally.

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the minister's desire to help the Caribbean countries, I would like to ask him if he would not reconsider his policy and give them some voice in determining what is good for themselves?

Mr. Sharp: All the projects that would be coming forward for assistance in agricultural developments would be sponsored by the governments themselves. We do not make decisions unilaterally as to what is good for other countries.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Has-tings): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the great discontent which Canada's action has created in the Caribbean countries, does the government not consider that perhaps the Caribbean countries are in a position to know what they would like from Canada rather than our telling them what they would like?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member's supplementary question is a repetition of one asked previously.

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE**DAIRYING—SUGGESTED AMENDMENT OF POLICY**

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Since the industrial milk producers are protesting strongly and demonstrations have been and will be organized, and also since newspapers have reported that he had received telegrams from the President of the Catholic Farmers' Union on this subject,

would the Prime Minister be in a position to tell the House whether he will recommend to the cabinet to amend the dairy policy announced on March 23 last, in order to make it more advantageous for industrial milk producers?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry I did not hear the beginning of the question, but perhaps I might answer it by saying that through my recent exchange of correspondence with the Premier of Quebec, I have had the opportunity to show him that the payments made by the federal government to milk producers total more than \$100 million a year, about half of that amount going to the province of Quebec.

[English]

INFORMATION**DISTRIBUTION OF FILM CLIPS OF MINISTERS' STATEMENTS TO TELEVISION STATIONS**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister without Portfolio in charge of Information Canada. Would he be good enough to advise the House whether the government or Information Canada is now sending out sound film clips of statements about to be made by ministers to various television stations across the country, and are these films delivered by Brinks trucks, with the strict embargo that they must not be used until the statements are made? Is this a part or parcel of the economy drive? If this is taking place it must cost a lot of money.

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, if there were any such statements I am sure their value would warrant their being carried by Brinks trucks—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stanbury: —but Information Canada has no plans, no activities in that field.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Well, Mr. Speaker, I am glad to hear the minister express the modest view that any view of any minister of this government should be carried around by Brinks trucks.

Mr. Nesbitt: Garbage trucks would be better.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.