

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Canada to look out for these people who are taking advantage of the situation in which pensioners find themselves?

**Mr. Munro:** Perhaps today's questions will have that effect.

**AGRICULTURE****GOVERNMENT POLICIES FOLLOWING TASK FORCE REPORT**

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** My question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. Is it the intention of the hon. gentleman or of the government to express an opinion with regard to the recommendations contained in the report of the task force on agriculture recently tabled, or is intended to ignore the report? If the government proposes to make a statement to the country and to the House, will the government undertake to indicate the extent to which it proposes to change its policies in order to conform with the recommendations in the report?

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** The government, particularly the Department of Agriculture, does not intend to ignore the report. Indeed, if the hon. member will look closely at a number of the items of legislation currently before the House as well as at the program changes which have taken place since the report was first received in February of this year he will find there is a great deal of similarity between the contents of the report and the measures before the House. There is insufficient time at this point in our proceedings to explain to the hon. member in answer to a question on Orders of the Day what alternatives lie before us with respect to this report, but I would be pleased to do so when a suitable opportunity presents itself, either during a debate in the House or during a discussion in the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

**Mr. Baldwin:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, it is because I have looked at the sorry list of government legislation in this field that I asked my question.

[*Translation*]

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****PROPOSED RECOGNITION OF COMMUNIST CHINA**

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Could he tell the House what progress has been made in the negotiations between Ottawa and Peking with regard to the official recognition of Communist China? Furthermore, is it true that the government will shortly announce such recognition by Canada?

[*English*]

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Of course, Mr. Speaker, the government cannot announce recognition until there has been agreement between the two sides, and this has not yet been achieved.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Fourteen months!

**INDIAN AFFAIRS****NEGOTIATIONS RESPECTING OCCUPATION OF CERTAIN ISLANDS IN ST. LAWRENCE RIVER**

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, but since I understand he will not be in the House for another ten days I shall direct it to the Parliamentary Secretary. What negotiations, proceedings or arrangements are taking place between the department and the Mohawk people who are occupying certain islands in the St. Lawrence River?

**Mr. Russell C. Honey (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** I am informed that those who are occupying the island or islands are doing so without the consent or blessing of the duly elected chief and council. On the other hand, I am advised that negotiations are in process between the leaseholder and the chief and council with respect to renegotiating the terms of the lease. Incidentally, I might advise the hon. member that this is not the minister's day according to the roster. He will be in the House tomorrow.

**FISHERIES****OTTAWA AND ST. LAWRENCE RIVERS—FINANCIAL COMPENSATION TO COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN BECAUSE OF BAN**

**Mr. Antonio Yanakis (Berthier):** My question is addressed to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Following the imposition by the minister of the sudden ban on commercial fishing in the Ottawa and St. Lawrence Rivers from the Hull district to Trois-Rivières due to the high level of mercury contaminant-