

*Inquiries of the Ministry***HEALTH****EFFECT OF CERTAIN BRANDS OF TOOTHPASTE
ON TOOTH ENAMEL**

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): My question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It is based upon a recent study by the American Dental Association which found that some brands of toothpaste were of such abrasive quality as to be harmful to tooth enamel. Can the minister advise whether similar studies are being conducted in Canada and, if so, what measures are being taken to safeguard Canadian users from any harmful effects?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not know how urgent this question is either to the minister or to the hon. member, but I doubt very much whether there is sufficient urgency at this time to enable the Chair to accept it. If there is urgency which is not apparent to the Chair, the matter can be discussed at the time of the adjournment, but I suggest that the question is not acceptable from a procedural standpoint at this time.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**STUDY OF NATO'S OUTLOOK—REPORTED CRITICISM
BY MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE**

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister. Was the Minister of National Defence expressing the official view of the Canadian government when, as has been reported, he criticized the study of NATO's outlook for the seventies which calls for an improvement in the conventional armed strength of that organization, by describing it at the NATO ministerial meeting as not imaginative enough?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I do not know whether the question refers to a policy statement of NATO itself or a government policy statement.

Mr. MacLean: Both, Mr. Speaker. My question refers to the reported criticism by the Minister of National Defence of this NATO study. I was inquiring whether this criticism had the authority of the Canadian government.

Mr. Trudeau: To the extent that the NATO study departs from our own policy statements it does, of course, have the authority of the government. The policy of the government in this regard has been made known. To the extent that it does not depart, it concerns something with regard to which the government has made no policy statement as yet.

Mr. MacLean: May I ask whether, on their return from Europe, the Secretary of State for External Affairs or the Minister of National Defence will make a statement to the House on motions reporting on the meetings so that the House may be fully aware of Canada's stance at these meetings?

Mr. Trudeau: I will ask the ministers to consider that suggestion.

[Mr. Speaker.]

PENITENTIARIES**PRINCE ALBERT—REASONS FOR SUSPENSION OF
CERTAIN MEMBERS OF STAFF**

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice who I assume is also Acting Solicitor General today. Can the minister tell us whether the six staff members at Prince Albert Penitentiary who have been suspended were suspended as a result of the investigations of the board of inquiry which, at least a few days ago, was looking into the riot and fire which occurred at the penitentiary?

Hon. John N. Turner (Acting Solicitor General): I have not yet received a report on this particular aspect of the affair but I shall be in touch with the hon. member.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Am I to assume from that reply that the minister has received some reports on some aspects of the affair?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): All I meant to say was that I have been briefed by the Deputy Solicitor General on this matter but that I have not received the information which the hon. member is seeking.

**PRINCE ALBERT—INVESTIGATION OF CONDITIONS
BY STANDING COMMITTEE**

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): I should like to address a question to the President of the Privy Council. In view of the serious situation which appears to have developed at Prince Albert Penitentiary, and the fact that the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs does not have a heavy workload before it, would the government consider giving this committee terms of reference which would enable it to visit the penitentiary to examine the conditions there at first hand?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): I would be happy to discuss that suggestion with the chairman of the committee.

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TRADE**AGRICULTURE—REASONS FOR 1969 DEFICIT—
PROSPECTS FOR 1970**

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): My question is for the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that in 1969, one year after this government came to power, and for the first time in the history of Canada, there was a trade deficit—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member knows he has the floor for the purpose of asking a question.

Mr. Yewchuk: I was just coming to it, Mr. Speaker. I was about to say that there was a trade deficit of approximately \$36 million in the agricultural industry. Would the minister indicate now or make a statement on motions as to what the reasons for this may be and what the prospects are in this area for 1970?