

Inquiries of the Ministry

will be announced? Can he also tell us if these proposed regulations have been discussed with the farm organizations and, if so, which farm organizations?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, the regulations are in force. Of course, the pattern of effect of the regulations upon farmers has been discussed very widely throughout the country with most farm organizations.

Mr. Burton: A supplementary question. If these regulations are in force, can the minister make them available to the members of this House and, more important, to the farmers of western Canada?

Mr. Lang: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to do that.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister say the regulations have been completed and are now confirmed? If so, will he table them today? The farmers of western Canada do not know where in blazes they are going because the regulations have not been made available to them.

Mr. Lang: I think that might be arranged, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Burton: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I rise on a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The right hon. gentleman seeks the floor on a question of privilege.

Mr. Diefenbaker: A facetious answer like that from a minister is not acceptable.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Groan if you will!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Keep it up!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, the attitude of the Liberal members is one of contempt toward the western farmer, as just shown by the minister.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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Mr. Diefenbaker: I ask the minister whether he will table the regulations today so they will be available? All we have yet received is a brush-off from a minister who has done nothing for the western farmers.

Mr. Lang: On the question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I, of course, do not have the regulations in my hand. I was conscious of the fact that at a later date it might require the consent of the House to table them. That is why I used the words I did.

Mr. Diefenbaker: If it requires the consent of the House, can that be secured now so that this fractious minister can produce them?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order.

REQUEST FOR CORRESPONDENCE ON ACRE-AGE REDUCTION PROGRAM

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. When did these regulations go into force and on what date was the order in council passed? Also, in view of the fact that the minister was able to release an exchange of correspondence between the President of the National Farmers' Union and himself on the question of operation LIFT, can he indicate to us whether he is prepared to make available all correspondence between the minister and the government and farm organizations since operation LIFT was first discussed with farm organizations?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly be glad to give consideration to the question in relation to the various parts of correspondence. Of course the usual conditions will have to be applied. It might be more useful if we had specific requests rather than a broad one of this sort. The consent of a variety of people may be required in order to fulfil the request.

[*Later:*]

Mr. Burton: I have one short supplementary question arising out of an answer given earlier by the minister. He asked hon. members to refer specifically to correspondence that they would like him to table. Would he arrange to table the telegram from the President of the National Farmers Union to the Prime Minister on February 22 in which the government's proposals for operation LIFT were specifically rejected?