

*Inquiries of the Ministry***TRADE**

## VENEZUELA—REFUSAL TO GRANT IMPORT LICENCE FOR PETROLEUM TANK WAGONS

**Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw):** I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Speaker. In view of the Venezuelan government's decision not to grant an import licence for the delivery of petroleum tank wagons manufactured at a Regina, Saskatchewan plant, and inasmuch Canadian imports from that country are some \$255 million higher than our exports to it, can the minister say whether any representations have been made to the government of Venezuela in connection with this incident?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** We are trying not to look at trade in bilateral terms; we are defenders of a multilateral trade system. However in view of the wide imbalance in trade between the two countries, Venezuela has been made aware on a number of occasions that we are looking toward a strengthening of imports by Venezuela from Canada.

**Mr. Skoberg:** Has any assurance been received from that government that further consideration will be given to Canadian imports?

**Mr. Pepin:** The Venezuelan minister for mines and hydrocarbons was here three or four weeks ago. The minister without portfolio from Saskatchewan and I met with him; I had a list of items which we believed could be exported from Canada to Venezuela, profitably for both countries, and I can give the hon. member a copy of that list if he is interested.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

## TAIWAN—INQUIRY AS TO PERMANENT TRADE COMMISSIONER

**Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca):** My question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Speaker. I want to know whether Canada has a permanent trade commissioner in Taiwan.

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** No, Mr. Speaker. There is no Canadian representative in Taiwan.

**Mr. Yewchuk:** In view of the fact that the Taiwan minister of economic affairs has indicated that Taiwan is interested in buying Canadian wheat, would the minister consider sending a permanent trade commissioner there?

**Mr. Sharp:** The Canadian Wheat Board is very successful in selling wheat to countries in which we do not have trade commissioners and I am sure it will be equally successful this time, if business can be done.

[Translation]

**DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS**

## REPRESENTATION OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AT PROVINCIAL PREMIERS' CONFERENCE

**Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister.

I would like to know if the provincial premiers have forwarded an invitation to the federal government in order that it may be represented by observers at the next provincial conference which will be held in Quebec soon? If so, will the government send observers and does the Prime Minister know what the agenda will be?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, when provincial premiers meet they do it, of course, without any official representation from the federal government. However, they have the courtesy and the good sense to ask us to send observers. Actually, we have selected some observers who will attend the conference to be held in Quebec.

[English]

**ELECTIONS**

## REQUEST FOR EQUAL VOTING PRIVILEGES FOR IMMIGRANTS

**Mr. Jack Cullen (Sarnia):** I have a question for the Secretary of State. In view of the fact that all immigrants contribute equally to Canadian welfare, would the government consider bringing in legislation to give equal voting privileges to all Canadian immigrants?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I realize that the hon. member is referring to an important matter, but I wonder if it is urgent. I do not suppose he is referring to new legislation during the present term of the current session. I hope not.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

## DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE—CANADIAN POSITION RESPECTING BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL WARFARE

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Speaker. Last