

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I shall certainly look into this matter.

**Mr. Orlikow:** May I ask the minister what action the government will take in connection with those drugs which apparently did not pass the test standards set by the government?

[Translation]

**Mr. Lalonde:** Mr. Speaker, it should not be deduced from the fact that I do not give an immediate reply to the hon. member's question that his premise is accurate. I shall make inquiries and see whether there has been one case of a drug not being submitted to the tests involved.

\* \* \*

[English]

#### FINANCE

##### TARIFF REDUCTIONS ON FOOD IMPORTS—PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH AGRICULTURE AND LABOUR

**Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the grave concern of many primary producers of food commodities and the food industry in general about their economic future under the new reductions in tariffs and the loss of jobs involved, can the minister tell the House if any of these groups were consulted in any way before this government action and, if so, can he indicate which agricultural and labour groups were consulted?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, obviously in direct terms one cannot consult groups before the introduction of budget measures, particularly tariff measures, but a thorough review was made with the various departments concerned to ensure that any tariff reductions would not unduly affect employment potential or farm income. I am in constant consultation with my colleague the Minister of Agriculture to ensure that this does not happen.

**Mr. G. H. Whittaker (Okanagan Boundary):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact the Minister of Finance in reply to a question on Friday said that the Minister of Agriculture would see to it that farmers were not hurt by the tariff reductions, did he consult with his colleague on the fact that cans imported into Canada for use by Canadian processors for Canadian products have a 17½ per cent tariff, while those already filled in some other country, and being imported into Canada now have no tariff?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, we have discussed that recently.

25789—32½

#### Oral Questions

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

##### OLD AGE PENSIONS—REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT BE MORE FLEXIBLE RESPECTING QUALIFICATION OF PERSONS RETURNING FROM ABROAD

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Will the minister give consideration to introducing more flexibility and compassion in his department when dealing with Canadian born senior citizens returning to Canada from abroad and seeking old age security qualification, particularly the avoidance of such incidents as advising an 88 year old gentleman to come back in 33½ years with his application?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I shall certainly be very happy to examine the regulations in question, and more particularly those relating to the point raised by the hon. member. I should mention, however, that these regulations were enlarged a few years ago, as the hon. member knows. I shall certainly look into the matter.

\* \* \*

[English]

#### LABOUR RELATIONS

##### STAGE OF PLANNING FOR HOLDING OF 1974 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN CANADA

**Mr. Ron Atkey (St. Paul's):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. In view of the commitment made on behalf of Canada by the hon. member for Verdun when minister of labour at the International Labour Relations Conference held in Israel in 1972 that the Canadian government would host the next international labour relations conference in 1974, can the minister inform the House what stage the planning for this conference has reached?

• (1440)

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I believe it is still the intention of the government to host that conference. As far as I am aware, planning is going on as well as can be expected.

**Mr. Atkey:** Would the minister advise the House of the details of the projected arrangements for this conference, and when they might be available to the participating countries?

**Mr. Munro (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, I will look into the matter.

\* \* \*

#### GRAIN

##### POSSIBILITY OF ALLOWING DOMESTIC WHEAT PRICE TO FLOAT

**Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the minister responsible for the