Inquiries of the Ministry

FARM MACHINERY—RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE INQUIRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the national interest in the inquiry by the agriculture committee into the very high prices charged for farm machinery, could the minister say when his officials will be in a position to appear before the committee, and when this discussion may be resumed?

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I can only speak for my officials. They will be ready at any time the committee is ready to hear them.

POLYMER CORPORATION

CAPITAL REQUIREMENT FOR SPECIALTY PLANT IN FRANCE

On the orders of the day:

G. J. McIlraith (Ottawa West): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Defence Production based on a press release of his department issued on Saturday announcing the formation of Polymer Corporation (SAF) for the purpose of constructing and operating a specialty rubber plant to be built at Le Wantzenau near Strasbourg, France. My question is this. Does the provision of the estimated capital requirement of \$12 million referred to in that press release involve a supplementary budget to that tabled for the Polymer Corporation, or is the capital requirement being met by other means?

Hon. Raymond O'Hurley (Minister of Defence Production): The press release of Saturday night was issued to coincide with the announcement that was made in France by our ambassador, Mr. Dupuy, who was guest of honour at a luncheon attended by Dr. Rowzee, the president of Polymer, as well as Mr. Wilk and Mr. Fontaine of the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas.

In so far as the question asked by the hon. member for Ottawa West is concerned, there will be no supplementary budget for expenses of Polymer in this fiscal year.

Mr. McIlraith: May I ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister advise the house as to what changes, if any, have taken place with respect to the prospective sale of Polymer Corporation from the last announcement he made on August 4, 1960?

Mr. O'Hurley: I have no other declaration for the time being with regard to the disposal realize that the matter of car registration is of Polymer. No decision has been reached,

but we have decided to allow Polymer to go ahead with this expansion program to meet the demand for synthetic rubber in those places where it is needed, without diminishing in any way the production of synthetic rubber at Sarnia.

IMMIGRATION

BRITISH COLUMBIA-EMLOYMENT OF U.S. CITIZENS IN PIPE LINE CONSTRUCTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I should like to direct a question to the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Labour. Has the minister received any complaints with respect to the numbers of United States citizens admitted to Canada for employment in the construction of pipe lines in British Columbia? Has the minister also received any complaints with respect to the admission to Canada of United States citizens under what are considered to be false pretences (1) as landed immigrants; (2) as persons allowed to enter for special work because there is no one in Canada supposedly qualified to do this so-called special work? Have these complaints been investigated? If so, can the parliamentary secretary inform the house with what result?

Mr. R. D. Thrasher (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I shall be pleased to bring this question to the attention of the minister.

[Later:]

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a question of the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. I apologize for not sending her notice, but it has just come to mind.

In view of the fact that the member for Kootenay West on one occasion conducted a successful personal investigation into the validity of certain landed immigrants by proving that they were living in British Columbia and still using their visitors' licences on their cars, would the minister consider asking the R.C.M.P. to check on these people to see whether they are still indicating that they intend to return to the United States and are using the six months' visitors licence while they live in British Columbia?

Hon. Ellen L. Fairclough (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I think on reflection the hon, member will one for the provincial authorities.