

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

by the hon. member are going on in many different ways, and there are studies of many different types. I cannot tell the hon. member whether these studies will result in the kind of report which I would offer to have tabled in the house.

**Mr. Harding:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask, again, whether a specific study of Canada's water resources, and the possible export thereof, has been set up.

**Mr. Lang:** I think I have really answered that question, Mr. Speaker. Studies of various types in that area are going on.

**HEALTH AND WELFARE****SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL DOCTORS**

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. As he has stated that the shortage of doctors in the country is due to the rising trend toward specialization, has he any plans for reversing this trend, and has he discussed these plans with the provincial ministers of health?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I would remind hon. members, as I attempted to do when a similar question was asked earlier, that questions cannot be asked in this way, relating to statements made outside the house.

**Mr. Rynard:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare whether he believes there is a shortage of medical manpower in Canada.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that he is asking for an expression of opinion. I would not think that the question as asked is in order.

**Mr. Rynard:** Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

**TRADE****BARLEY—DECREASE IN SHIPMENTS OVERSEAS**

**Mr. A. B. Douglas (Assiniboia):** Mr. Speaker, this question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the trend toward lower barley sales recently, can the minister explain why barley sales have been declining?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that the question as asked is argumentative.

[Mr. Lang.]

**POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT****REPRESENTATIONS OF POSTMASTERS**

**Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday last I directed a question to the Postmaster General, and he said he would look into the matter. I would like to know whether he now has an answer for me. My question was in relation to whether a decision had been reached in respect of representations made to the Deputy Postmaster General in mid-February on behalf of the postmasters of Canada.

**Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Minister and myself have been engaged in negotiations. I will remind him of that question this afternoon.

[Translation]

**INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY**

**Mr. Bernard Dumont (Frontenac):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the future Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

In view of the fact that, following a meeting many Canadians have set up retraining courses in political science with the result that they discovered the problems of economic disparity, could the minister assure the house that he is going to subsidize the Estates General in order to encourage them to carry on those political education courses?

[English]

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****MAINLAND CHINA—DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S.S.R. ABOUT RECOGNITION**

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he can report to the house on the meeting he had earlier in the week with the ambassador of the U.S.S.R. In particular, can he tell us whether he discussed with the ambassador anything in relation to this country's proposed recognition of the Peking government?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I believe it would be unusual for me unilaterally to discuss the content of such discussions or such representations made at the demand of another country upon us. But I understand that the Secretary of State for External Affairs has obtained the consent of the embassy of the U.S.S.R. to indicate that we did discuss the general problem of China, with no more detail than that.