

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

NATIONAL SECURITY**REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF DUTIES OF SECURITY PLANNING AND RESEARCH GROUP**

Mr. Pierre De Bané (Matane): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Solicitor General for some clarification of his statement of today on the Security Planning and Research Group. On the one hand, the minister tells us that this group will have only advisory duties and I should like him to explain the meaning of the fact that they are to compile information on groups, act on groups, look after groups. Could the minister give us some explanation of those functions of the advisory group? Are its members going to carry out operations?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, there is no question of this group carrying out certain operations, such as conducting inquiries anywhere in Canada or on anyone in Canada. Its duties will be limited to analysis, planning and research.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: I again bring to the attention of hon. members that we have just about run out of time. I feel strongly for the 10 or 12 members in the third, fourth and fifth rows who have not yet had a chance to ask questions. We should limit the number of supplementaries.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): A supplementary question. Does the function of this group include the examination of breaches of the law in high places?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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AGRICULTURE**EFFECT OF UNITED STATES SURTAX—REQUEST FOR POLICY STATEMENT**

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): My question is for the Acting Minister of Agriculture, if such a person is present today. The minister was supposed to be here today, as he was yesterday. When will the Minister of Agriculture announce specific programs and policies with regard to food and agricultural products that will be badly affected by the United States surtax?

● (4:50 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Marcel Lessard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, may I say to the hon. member that, following the statements previously made to the House by the Minister of Agriculture, we can assure hon. members that the department is presently considering what action should be taken. Within a few days, the minister should probably be in a position to announce what definite measures will be taken to correct the situation described by the hon. member.

[Mr. McCleave.]

[English]

EFFECT OF UNITED STATES SURTAX—INFORMATION FOR AFFECTED PRODUCERS

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): A supplementary question. Will the parliamentary secretary indicate what information is being conveyed to primary producers whose orders for prospective shipments to the United States this fall have already been affected?

[Translation]

Mr. Lessard: Mr. Speaker, no definite information can be given at this moment on any action that the Department of Agriculture and the government could take in order to help primary producers who will be affected, but the hon. member—as well as all hon. members—may rest assured that such action will be satisfactory.

[English]

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): A further supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question period has expired. The hon. member for Kootenay West has been waiting for some time. I do not think he has asked a question and perhaps with the consent of the House he might be permitted to do so. If hon. members agree, the hon. member for Egmont might then ask a further supplementary.

[Later:]

EFFECT OF UNITED STATES SURTAX—REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO POTATO PRODUCERS

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): A further supplementary to the parliamentary secretary. In view of the fact that markets are presently being lost, can the hon. gentleman inform the House whether officials of the Department of Agriculture are in contact with primary producers, in particular with potato producers, to assist in meeting the difficulties caused by the surtax?

Mr. Lessard (Lac-Saint-Jean): I cannot assure the hon. member that officials of the department are in contact personally with potato producers, but I can assure him that those to whom he has referred will be covered by the program to be put forward by the government. Right now, approval of the criteria is being considered and an announcement by the government should come very rapidly.

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POLLUTION**PHOSPHATE CONTENT OF DETERGENTS—EFFECT OF UNITED STATES ACTION ON AGREEMENT REGARDING GREAT LAKES**

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. In view of the recent news report that the United States government will not reduce the phosphate content in detergents, how does this recent action fit into the agreement which we have been told was made between the Canadian and United States authorities in meeting pollution problems in the Great Lakes, specifically that dealing with phosphates?