

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

situation and we have been trying to alleviate it.

The good results in this crop year have been noted in the departmental promotion programs for seed potato exports, and these exports are 45 per cent above those to the same date in 1966. Table potato exports are currently much higher than for the same period last year. The United States is the largest market for potatoes, but the low duty quota there has been filled and smaller quantities are now moving to the United States over a substantial tariff barrier. In other markets the industry and our trade commissioners have been making a special effort to move Canadian potatoes.

European suppliers also have surpluses and world market prices are low, but despite these problems a record movement of Canadian potatoes into foreign markets is expected.

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege which affects members of this house. It concerns the recognition which Your Honour extends to representatives of different parties. The hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands has been attempting to catch Your Honour's eye since the inception of the question period. While only two members of this party have been recognized, innumerable Conservative members have been recognized ad nauseam. I can appreciate, Mr. Speaker, that with all the contenders for a future office there is a desire on their part to be recognized interminably, but I do wish you would glance this way occasionally in order to balance the representation.

[*Later:*]

**Hon. Hugh John Flemming (Victoria-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Has he received any representations from New Brunswick concerning the surplus of potatoes which exists in that province, and if so could he inform the house whether action is being considered to deal with the problem?

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I do not recall any specific representations on that matter, but my colleague the Minister of Trade and Commerce instructs me that he has been advised of it, and I think he gave a rather lengthy answer a few moments ago in respect of the action taken by the Department of Trade and Commerce.

[*Mr. Winters.*]

**Mr. Flemming:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I direct the attention of the minister to the fact that possibly the request from the provincial government of New Brunswick concerning the potato surplus may come to him before it reaches the Minister of Trade and Commerce. If it does, would he give it his prompt attention, if at all possible?

**Mr. Greene:** I will be glad to do so, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Winters:** Mr. Speaker, lest there be any misunderstanding I think perhaps I should say that the minister of agriculture of the province of New Brunswick has been in touch with me on that problem.

## LABOUR CONDITIONS

## WINDSOR, ONT.—LAY-OFFS AT WALKER METAL PRODUCTS LTD.

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs in view of the fact that he is so conscious of his obligations. I should like to ask him whether his obligations have directed his attention and the attention of the government to the fact that 180 production line workers will be laid off tomorrow by Walker Metal Products Ltd. in Windsor, a subsidiary of Chrysler Canada Ltd. I should also like to ask him whether his obligations were sufficient to prompt him to ask that some action be taken with a view to looking into this whole situation.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I was aware of that fact. The Minister of Industry also told me that as a result of the Canada-United States auto pact there has been increased production in Canada, and that more workers are now employed in the automobile industry than at any other time in Canadian history.

**Mr. Starr:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Then can the minister explain why the lay-offs are now starting in Windsor?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** What about the 380,000 unemployed?