

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

like to answer the following question asked yesterday by the hon. member for Meadow Lake:

How much, if any, of the 5 cents per pound increase that the government has allowed dealers holding butter to charge consumers will be returned to the farmers who produced the butter?

The government has no authority to control the price of butter by dealers, and it does not attempt to do so. This point was explained by the Minister of Agriculture in answer to a question asked by the hon. member for Springfield, as reported in *Hansard*, page 30, October 16, 1957.

As explained at that time, butter prices had risen by from 1½ cents to 2 cents per pound between August 3 and October 12, and prices paid to producers for butterfat had risen to the same extent. Since October 16 there has been little or no change in prices for butter and butterfat on the major Canadian markets.

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT****REPORTED SLOW-DOWN OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AT NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Trinity):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce whether he is aware of the slow-down of the projects in scientific research at the national research council, and whether it is part of the cutting down of expenses which it is rumoured has been ordered by the Minister of Finance?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I might remind the hon. member that this question was answered a day or two ago, and a question relating to the alleged reduction in appropriations for scientific research was answered today.

**Mr. Haidasz:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to restate my question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce and ask him whether he is aware of the slow-down of scientific projects at the national research council?

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I have every confidence in the national research council, and I am quite satisfied that they are continuing their studies without any slow-up at all.

**FINANCE****ATLANTIC PROVINCES—REQUEST FOR SETTING UP OF MONETARY REGION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. J. Murphy (Westmorland):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Will this government consider setting up a monetary region

[Mr. Charlton.]

in the Atlantic provinces distinct from the rest of Canada, where the tight money policy will not exist, as suggested on September 26, 1956, by Premier Flemming of New Brunswick?

**Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I make no comment on the propriety of the question, but I do comment upon the inaccuracy of what purports to be the assertion of fact with which my friend closed his question. I may say to my hon. friend that so far as the tight money policy is concerned, that policy of the Bank of Canada, put into effect during the regime of the former government, is under constant study; and whenever there is occasion to make an announcement, that announcement will be made in the house. I think my hon. friend will appreciate that it is a matter of concern to all parts of Canada.

**Mr. Chevrier:** Arrogance at its best.

**Mr. Murphy (Westmorland):** A supplementary question. In view of the minister's answer, will he tell the house whether the government is considering an investigation into the monetary system of Canada by royal commission or otherwise, as suggested by the same Premier Flemming?

**Mr. Fleming:** Mr. Speaker, I think my friend will understand that this whole matter is under consideration and under study at all times.

**Mr. Murphy (Westmorland):** A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I think two supplementaries following a question ought to be enough to clarify an answer. I think the hon. member for St. Antoine-Westmount has a supplementary.

**Mr. Murphy (Westmorland):** On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** What is the question of privilege?

**Mr. Murphy (Westmorland):** I have not asked two supplementary questions; I have asked only one on this matter, and I would like to be permitted to ask a second one.

**Mr. Speaker:** Well, I do not want to do the hon. member an injustice. My arithmetic may be at fault, but I understood him to ask a question and to follow it up with two further questions.

**Mr. Murphy (Westmorland):** One further question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is that what the hon. member says? Then I will let him make it two, but I reserve the right to consider his question before it is answered.