

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** No, Mr. Speaker, I did not think it necessary to amplify what I had said previously to the government of the United States in opposition to these tests.

**Mrs. MacInnis:** Will there be any further discussions on this matter before the date that has been set?

**Mr. Sharp:** I am expecting that I will have further information from the United States about their intentions. We have made very strong representations and we do not feel there is very much more we can do from our side. We hope, however, we will have some response from the United States.

\* \* \*

**AGRICULTURE****FARM MACHINERY—REMOVAL OF SUBSIDIZATION OF LOWER PRICES IN OTHER COUNTRIES BY CANADIAN FARMERS**

**Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. The Barber Commission on farm machinery suggested that Canadian farmers were subsidizing lower prices for farm machinery in other countries. Following his discussions with the farm machinery manufacturers, can the minister now tell us for sure that definite action is being taken to rectify this situation?

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot give the assurance that the farm machinery companies have accepted that assertion and are taking corrective action based on whether or not it is valid. I have had a number of meetings with senior officers of the farm machinery companies and there have been, I think, some useful actions taken in respect of some of the recommendations of the Barber Commission Report.

**Mr. McKinley:** Mr. Speaker, will the minister advise what useful actions have been taken in this regard?

**Mr. Olson:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, but I would be repeating answers I have made in the House on a number of occasions.

**FARM MACHINERY—GOVERNMENT PLANS RESPECTING BARBER COMMISSION REPORT**

**Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley):** Mr. Speaker, would the minister be prepared to make a statement on motions as to what the government plans to do in toto in respect of the Barber Commission Report so that we will not have to put these questions to him continually day by day? We would like to have a total information package if he can give it to us.

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** As hon. members will be aware, there were several hundred recommendations, and it does not seem to me there could be any specific point in time when the government or, indeed, the industry could lay out in detail what they intend to do with these several hundred recommendations.

[Mrs. MacInnis.]

**URBAN AFFAIRS****INQUIRY AS TO DESIGNATION OF MINISTER OF STATE**

**Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. Can he inform the House whether it is the intention of the government during this session to officially designate a Minister of State for Urban Affairs?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

\* \* \*

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****NUMBER OF NEW BRANCH OFFICES—FUNCTIONS TO BE PERFORMED**

**Mr. Ambrose Hubert Peddle (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact that unemployment is becoming such big business in Canada, will the minister advise how many new unemployment insurance branch offices are contemplated throughout Canada to accommodate the demands of the new UIC legislation and the vastly increased number of clients?

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, there will be many new offices, not because there are more clients but because of the insistence on serving better the working force in this country. I would anticipate we will be opening about 100 claim service offices across Canada. A complete list of these offices will be mailed to each and every Member of Parliament over the next 10 days.

**Mr. Peddle:** Will the minister say whether these new offices to be opened will perform all the same functions as the existing offices?

**Mr. Mackasey:** Mr. Speaker, insofar as the relationship with the public is concerned, because of the fact that one of the functions now carried out by the Unemployment Insurance Commission has been transferred to the Department of Revenue, that is, collections and audits, this will free more employees to deal directly with the public and therefore the main thrust of the new offices will be the better servicing of the public.

\* \* \*

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****DISCUSSION WITH UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE OF TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION SKAGIT RIVER REFERENCE**

**Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Did the minister make any effort in his discussions last week with the United States Secretary of State to have the terms of reference of the International Joint Commission inquiry into the Skagit Valley situation