

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I think my question is a relevant supplementary. I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister whether the question of control of a large part of Canada's economy, particularly control of a large part of the manufacturing section of this country's economy, is a subject of discussion with the representatives from the United States and whether there has been any indication by the representatives of Canada that Canada intends to take some action with regard to the situation?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, this does not seem to be very directly relevant to the balance of payments problem.

• (3:50 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the Leader of the Opposition on a supplementary.

[Translation]

I will then recognize the hon. member for Portneuf.

[English]

DISCUSSION OF SUBJECT OF ENERGY WITH UNITED STATES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister whether among the subjects the United States officials have indicated they want to discuss is included the subject of energy?

An hon. Member: How about the heavy water leaks.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the United States and Canada were discussing the subject of energy until the emergence of the emergency measures taken by the United States which gave some priority to other matters. I do understand that the United States would like to return to having some discussion, but I want to repeat what I said yesterday, that this has no relation whatever to the 10 per cent surcharge.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. In fairness the Chair has to recognize the hon. member for Portneuf. We are still on the first round and I will return to the Leader of the Opposition in a moment.

[Later:]

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is for the Acting Prime Minister. The government of Canada having indicated that its officials were too preoccupied with other matters to resume discussions relating to energy matters, now that United States officials have asked that these discussions continue does the government of Canada propose to meet this request and resume these discussions?

Mr. Sharp: Yes, Mr. Speaker. The kind of discussions the United States is asking us to have we would be very happy to resume.

[Mr. Baldwin.]

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

REQUEST BY UNION CATHOLIQUE DES CULTIVATEURS FOR IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE TO PREVENT BANKRUPTCY OF CERTAIN PRODUCERS

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I wanted to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture but since he is away, I will put it to his Parliamentary Secretary.

Has the Department of Agriculture considered the telegram sent to it recently by the president general of the Catholic Farmers Union in which direct and immediate assistance was requested to prevent hog, egg and turkey producers from going bankrupt? In the affirmative, could the Parliamentary Secretary tell us what measures the government intends to take in this connection?

Mr. Marcel Lessard (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the telegram referred to by the hon. member has indeed been received. In fact, I also received a copy of it.

I can assure the hon. member that the Department is considering this document. The Minister will be back tomorrow from a trip to Europe and will be in a position to inform the parties concerned about the position that the government intends to take on this subject.

REPRESENTATIONS OF QUEBEC MINISTER TO OBTAIN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture.

Could he tell us if representations were made by the Quebec Minister of Agriculture on the same matter in order to request the financial assistance of the federal government in respect of the provincial program?

Mr. Lessard: Mr. Chairman, as for the \$16 millions contributed by organizations and the provincial government, I am not aware that the provincial government has asked for some assistance. It is possible that such a request was made these last few days but I am not aware of it. I will have to inquire and, if need be, I shall later provide the hon. member with an answer.

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[English]

IMMIGRATION ACT

INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF AMENDMENTS

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister whether the government has decided to introduce into the House for first reading amendments to the Immigration Act which have been before cabinet so the House will be aware of what is contained in these proposals and, if so, when will this be done?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure I understand whether the hon. gentleman wants to know when we will bring for-