

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the answer given by the Acting Prime Minister to the previous question and in view of the fact that the I.G.A. was negotiated within the context of the Kennedy round, is it the view of the government that this now negates every Kennedy round agreement to which Canada is a party, and does the government plan to take any counter-measures in retaliation for what has happened to the I.G.A.?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, our general position is that under the Kennedy round the balance of advantage was very much with Canada apart from the International Grains Arrangement, though this was an added benefit. Therefore we are striving mightily to retain as much of the agreement as can be salvaged.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the uncertainty and the vacuity of the answers that have been given in regard to the situation in western Canada, which is serious beyond words, will the Acting Prime Minister say whether the statement made by the Prime Minister yesterday that what the western farmers should do is to cut down their production of wheat represents the consensus of government policy?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, when the Prime Minister of Canada speaks he speaks, of course, for the government.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Will the Acting Prime Minister say whether the government has any intention of bringing in something in the nature of acreage payments? Can we not get an answer from this government? When we are dealing with the western farmers, all we receive is contemptuous disregard.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether that deserves an answer, but I do know that I should point out to the right hon. gentleman from Prince Albert that great objection was taken to the Prime Minister going to western Canada at this time. I think it is most important for the Prime Minister to be there and to come with direct answers. I know of no one in Canada who is more concerned about the people and farmers of western Canada than the Prime Minister.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Will the Acting Prime Minister say whether the fact that there are only three western ministers in the cabinet

Inquiries of the Ministry

has made it impossible for the government to know what is going on?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the Acting Prime Minister. Has the Acting Prime Minister now reconsidered statements made by himself and others of his colleagues in past years in which the western farmers were told: "You grow the wheat and we will sell it"?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Chair has been as lenient as possible in allowing these supplementaries in view of the importance of the matter, but having now reached the area of debate I think we should pass on to another subject.

OIL

MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPE LINE RESEARCH,
LIMITED—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT
ON FORMATION

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources would be among the ministers present today, but there are only eight ministers in the house. In any event, since the ministers' parliamentary secretary is here I might give him something to answer.

Will the minister shortly make a statement in the house relative to the formation of Mackenzie Valley Pipe Line Research, Limited, a consortium of four leading oil companies, whose purpose is to determine technological and other feasibility studies on a large diameter oil pipe line from the north slope of Alaska and related Canadian Arctic areas along the Mackenzie River valley to Edmonton, and on to the North American market? As a supplementary question—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): The question will only be taken as notice, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member cannot ask a supplementary question now; perhaps he might ask it later. The question as asked by the hon. member is acceptable under the rules, as he knows, only to the extent that the hon. member is asking the minister when a statement will be made on motions.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, since this question falls