

Inquiries of the Ministry

consider matters that Parliament will refer to it, including some legislation as well as a number of reports which traditionally and properly are referred to that committee. Once the committee is reconvened the matters it takes up are, of course, under its own control.

[Translation]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Could he tell the House whether at the Liberal party think-in over the weekend it was suggested to apply the theories of Social Credit to solve the problem of poverty?

[English]

GRAIN**WHEAT—EXPORT FORECAST—REMOVAL OF LAND FROM PRODUCTION**

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the statement made this morning by the chairman of the Economic Council of Canada that two recent studies indicate that in the next five years exports of wheat may be 25 per cent below the level of the last few years, may I ask whether the government shares this view and whether it anticipates the removal of millions of acres of western agricultural land from wheat production in that period?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question asked is much too wide in scope. The hon. member is asking whether the minister agrees or disagrees with a statement made outside the House. The question is not in order in those terms.

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker, may I ask whether the government anticipates the removal of millions of acres of western agricultural land from wheat production in the next five years?

Mr. Speaker: The question should be placed on the order paper.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**ACTION TO BAN UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTING**

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs arising out of the statement

[Mr. Olson.]

made today by the Prime Minister concerning the agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Having in mind the fact that the United States is said to be planning further massive nuclear tests at the present time in the northern Pacific, will Canada do what it can at the present session of the United Nations to bring about a ban on underground testing?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are working in that direction. We are applying all the pressure we can for a test ban treaty. It might be of interest to the hon. member to know that according to the information we have from the United States government no further tests will be held on Amchitka, where the original test was made, for a period of one or two years and may not be made at all depending on the results of the first test.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister whether in that interval Canada will make any representations to the government of the United States that testing not continue on Amchitka in view of the serious consequences it could have because the anticipated tests are to be much larger than the test held this fall?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will recall that the reason we made our representation on the previous occasion was the danger that because of a fault there might be a tidal wave or earthquake generated by the test. We will be following the results of the test and if we find any reason to make further representations we will do so.

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs if he has any information on whether the earthquake which resulted in a recent tidal wave alert on the Pacific coast, though fortunately it did not result in a tidal wave, had any relationship to the test on Amchitka? If he does not have that information, can he secure it from the United States?

Mr. Sharp: I will make inquiries about that. There were some earthquakes about the time of the former tests but they were before the tests were made so it would have been very difficult to establish any relationship between the two. However, I will make inquiries whether the scientists see any connection between them.