

Oral Questions

ibly the conditions which someone else would prefer. I wish to make it clear that these suspensions are not because management is necessarily right; it is simply that the solution lies in applying the collective agreement and the grievance procedure rather than settling the matter through what I consider to be a violent way of acting and one which is not in the best interests of the labour movement.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Orlikow: In view of the fact there obviously exists a difference of opinion between the minister and the President of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers about the way in which a collective bargaining agreement is applied, may I suggest to the minister for the last time that the way to settle this difference of opinion is through a meeting between the minister and the president of the union so that each may know precisely what the other is thinking?

Mr. Mackasey: Theoretically, it is possible that such a meeting has already taken place.

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AGRICULTURE**FERTILIZER—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ASSURE SUPPLY AT ECONOMIC PRICES**

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture what progress he and his colleague the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs are making toward the government's objective of assuring adequate stocks of chemical fertilizer available to the agriculture industry this year at economic prices?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): I am assured that there will be adequate supplies. If the information given to me is correct, some farmers are cutting back their purchases of fertilizer because of the uneconomic price—the high price that is involved. We have seen some slight evidence of price decrease in our analyses of fertilizer sales but nothing like we would wish to see—nothing like the reduction we think should take place. I am working very closely with the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs with regard to what action we can take.

Mr. MacLean: What action has the minister taken to make sure that farmers generally are aware of the fact that there should be adequate supplies available, whether the price is right or not?

Mr. Whelan: We have contacted all the provincial departments of agriculture and our surveys show, as they have in the past, that there will be adequate supplies. In some areas there may even be an oversupply of some varieties of fertilizer.

[Mr. Mackasey.]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**METHOD OF DETERMINING WHICH COUNTRIES RECEIVE AID THROUGH CIDA**

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question. I would have directed it to the Secretary of State for External Affairs but he is absent on business. Having regard to the haphazard efforts of CIDA in the past, how will the new guidelines affecting CIDA with respect to foreign aid be applied when it comes to determining which countries are to receive such aid, especially in the light of the statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs that fewer countries will receive Canadian assistance?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs): I think it would be appropriate for these guidelines to be discussed in a forum other than the question period at which time full satisfaction could be given to the hon. member. Perhaps he has a more specific question to follow up with.

VIET NAM—INQUIRY WHETHER ASSISTANCE CHANNELLED THROUGH CIDA

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have. Will the assistance which will be going to Viet Nam be channelled through CIDA, and will it be assistance directed to the relief of misery, inhumanity and suffering in the form of cash?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs): As the Secretary of State for External Affairs stated, our help to Viet Nam is being channelled through international agencies.

Mr. Woolliams: Maybe the minister left the wrong impression. I was asking about the sole Canadian agency, namely CIDA, possibly working through other agencies. Would this help, given to Viet Nam, be in the form of cash and is the hon. gentleman waiting until the North Vietnamese take over all of Viet Nam to deliver that cash?

Mr. Sharp: The assistance which is being provided by Canada is, of course, being provided through CIDA. It is being provided in cash to international agencies which are now on the spot doing what they can to help.

● (1440)

VIET NAM—POSSIBILITY OF PROTEST TO HANOI OVER BREACH OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE OF EVACUATION OF CANADIANS

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question also for the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the fact that the situation in that area has deteriorated even more, is the government considering notes of protest to be delivered in Hanoi or elsewhere against the breaches of international agreements, with such cost in terms of misery and tragedy for the local population?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the attitude of the government has been expressed already by the Secretary of State