

Inquiries of the Ministry

Monday, I think it was, I asked the hon. gentleman a question with regard to the position of the Canadian representative at the disarmament conference with regard to biological and chemical warfare weaponry. The minister said the matter was of such importance that he would like to be able to give a precise answer. Accordingly, he took the question as notice. Can he be precise, or general, but informative today?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I thank the hon. gentleman for asking this question. I was about to rise and endeavour to catch your eye, Mr. Speaker, so that I might answer it. The Canadian position will be outlined in more detail at the conference which is now proceeding in Geneva, but I can assure the hon. member that we welcome the British initiative in the search for supplementary measures which will strengthen existing agreements and preclude the use of chemical and biological agents in warfare.

Mr. Lewis: In view of reports, which had not reached my notice when I first asked this question, that the British proposal relates only to biological warfare and does not concern chemical warfare weaponry, will the minister instruct our representative in Geneva to insist that chemical warfare be included as part of the agenda for discussion and in the eventual protocol?

Mr. Sharp: One of the reasons I did not go further in supporting the British initiative is that in our opinion it does not go far enough. It would be our intention to press for even stronger measures in both the chemical and biological fields.

Mr. Lewis: Can the minister make certain that members of this house obtain as quickly as possible a copy of the statement to be made by Mr. Ignatieff, I imagine, at the conference on this subject?

Mr. Sharp: To the extent that it is not a confidential document, I shall endeavour to do so.

FINANCE**REQUEST FOR WRITE-OFF OF PAN-AMERICAN GAMES DEFICIT**

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): I have a question for the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that during the past five months the federal government has approved capital expenditures in Quebec totalling some \$1½ billion, including a \$125 million write-off

[Mr. Lewis.]

in connection with Expo, would the right hon. gentleman seriously consider writing off the deficit on the Pan-American Games in Winnipeg amounting to some \$600,000?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question as asked seems to be argumentative in intent and I do not think it can be accepted. The hon. member for Hillsborough.

Mr. Simpson: Mr. Speaker, may I rephrase the question?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Hillsborough.

INDUSTRY**IRISH MOSS—ASSISTANCE IN ESTABLISHING EXTRACTING PLANT**

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. I apologize to him for my late notice and for sending that notice in long hand. That may be a grievous error. The question is about the Irish moss industry and arises from an encouraging answer to a question on the order paper the other day. Can he advise whether he and his department are co-operating with the Prince Edward Island government in efforts toward encouraging the establishment of an extracting plant in Prince Edward Island?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I am vaguely aware of this but I think I should ask for a more precise report. The hon. member may be sure that we will co-operate to the fullest extent if this man is serious.

GRAIN**WHEAT—CLOSING OF CROP YEAR, PRODUCER DELIVERIES**

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Is it still the intention of the Wheat Board to close the present crop year at the end of the month? At that time will the new prices for the fall be available? Also, may I ask whether any plan has been worked out with the Wheat Board so that the full five-bushel quota may be delivered by producers?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, no statement has been made with respect to the