

tions now would indicate that to the end of this dairy year we may be short eight or 10 days' supply on total requirements of butter for the year.

* * *

HEALTH

INVESTIGATION OF USE AND SAFETY OF DRUG MDA

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of reports recently of the deaths of seven people who had taken the drug MDA, with no other apparent cause of death, is the minister conducting an investigation into the use and safety of this drug?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I shall check into the matter and report to the hon. member.

* * *

LABOUR CONDITIONS

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL NICKEL COMPANY TO PREVENT LAY-OFF OF EMPLOYEES AT PORT COLBORNE REFINERY

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): I have a question for the Minister of Labour. The other day I asked the Prime Minister whether he was aware of the situation which exists at Inco involving the possible lay-off of 470 employees. I understand the matter was taken up with the Minister of Labour. Can he now advise whether there has been any discussion with Inco regarding this problem with a view to alleviating the situation?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): The Prime Minister spoke to me about the question and I spoke to the appropriate minister who was not available the other day, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. I am sure he would inform the House that Inco complied with the law and discussed the proposed lay-offs with his department so that the facilities of that department will be placed at the disposal of both management and the affected personnel.

Mr. Alexander: In view of the situation that exists at Inco, is the minister planning to inject a further \$100 million into the employment support program?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): The employment support program is only beginning to be put into operation and that question does not arise at this point. The Department of Manpower and Immigration is having specific discussions with Inco under the consultative manpower services in the hope of arriving at an agreement for working out the best possible solution for employment for the individuals involved.

Mr. Alexander: A further supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member may ask a last supplementary but we will soon be running short of time.

Inquiries of the Ministry

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INTRODUCTION OF POLICIES TO AVERT BUSINESS FAILURES

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): In light of the fact that Dun and Bradstreet of Canada has indicated that business failures rose in September to 216 from 168 in the corresponding year-earlier period, and that the largest number of September failures occurred in Quebec, 100 companies compared with 88 in September, 1970, is the government considering new selective fiscal measures to avert such high levels of business failures next year?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will appreciate that the question as asked would normally invite a general statement which ought to be made on motions. I would not think that the question in those terms is in order. The hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain.

Mr. Alexander: A point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: I apologize to the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain. The hon. member for Hamilton West is rising on a point of order.

• (2:40 p.m.)

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your patience. In view of the way you ruled on my question, may I ask the Prime Minister this question. In light of the fact that business failures seem to be increasing, would he indicate to the House when a statement will be made regarding the policies that the government will undertake in order to avert this situation? Surely the Prime Minister can answer that.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the hon. member is suggesting that we should make a specific statement to tell businessmen how not to fail. However, if he is not asking that, if he is asking about the general state of the economy, may I say that the Minister of Finance made a statement less than two weeks ago and we are frequently making such statements.

Mr. Baldwin: And that statement caused another 50 failures.

* * *

GRAIN

COMPLAINTS REGARDING NON-RECEIPT OF PAYMENTS UNDER FORAGE CROP AND GRASSLAND SUBSIDY PROGRAMS

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration in his capacity as the minister answering for the Canadian Wheat Board. In view of the large number of complaints that have come to light recently with respect to tardy payment or non-payment of moneys owing to western farmers under the government's forage crop and grassland subsidy programs which are related to the Lift program, what steps, if any, is the minister taking to clear up this serious situation?