

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

hon. member has not yet been closed, but the closing is fairly imminent. Of course, the exact financial state of the account will be reported to the House in due course after the closing.

**Mr. Burton:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary in respect of the operations of the Canadian Wheat Board. In view of the fact that it is almost two months since the announcement of the interim barley payment, can the minister also indicate if all payments are now in the hands of farmers? I ask this question because I understand some payments have just gone out within the past few days.

**Mr. Lang:** I shall be glad to ascertain for the hon. member whether, in fact, all payments have now gone out.

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## AGRICULTURE

## APPLES AND BEEF—RESTRICTION OF IMPORTS

**Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture which I ask on behalf of the apple and beef producers of Canada. Because of the severe hardship being caused by the importation of cheap beef from Australia and New Zealand, and also apples, would the government take action immediately to place restrictions on these unwarranted imports?

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker in so far as apples are concerned, there have been a number of interdepartmental committee meetings with representatives of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Finance, the Department of National Revenue, the Department of Trade and Commerce and so on. I am sure the hon. member is aware of an offer we have made to deal with part of this problem through the Agricultural Stabilization Board. So far as beef is concerned, I cannot agree that the imports of beef have had a detrimental effect on the market within Canada, because what is coming in is of a kind and quality in respect of which there is insufficient production in Canada to meet the demand.

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[Translation]

## FLOODS

QUEBEC—REQUEST FOR AID BY CANADIAN  
ARMED FORCES

**Mr. Marcel Roy (Laval):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of National Defence.

Since the flow of water in the Ottawa river and Deux-Montagnes lake as well as ice jams in des Prairies and Mille-Îles rivers have placed the residents of Laval-Ouest, Sainte-Dorothée, Sainte-Rose and Fabreville in a state of emergency and forced them to vacate their dwellings, would the Minister of National Defence tell

[Mr. Lang.]

the House whether he has received a request from the Quebec authorities for assistance from the Canadian Armed Forces?

[English]

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, representatives of the Emergency Measures Organization and of the Canadian forces have been in consultation with the Quebec authorities concerning flood assistance in the regions mentioned by the hon. gentleman. I can indicate that a number of members of the Canadian forces, engineering experts, and so on, have been participating in this operation and there is at the moment a Canadian forces helicopter standing by at St. Hubert. All necessary forces will be made available on request by the civil authorities of the province.

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## NATIONAL MUSEUMS

## INQUIRY AS TO REPORT ON INVESTIGATION

**Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State as minister responsible to the House for the national museums. It has to do with an inquiry the minister said he ordered into the administration of the museums branch on December 7, 1970. Would the minister tell the House whether or not that inquiry has been completed?

[Translation]

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, and I was awaiting the question to again give the reply. The inquiry has been completed. I have received a verbal report. Nothing abnormal has been found, despite the allegations that were published by some newspapers and the absence of any anomaly is confirmed by the fact that the Auditor General of Canada has since examined that administration and found nothing abnormal.

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[English]

## INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

**Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Works. I should like to ask him whether the supporters of the New Democratic Party who picketed and demonstrated in front of this building today obtained a permit from his department to do so, for the obvious reason that they are not receiving adequate representation here from their elected members and therefore have no confidence in them?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.