

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the minister. Has the combines branch completed its study of the Batten report on food prices and food retailing on the prairies? If so, will it be on the agenda for the federal-provincial conference on consumer affairs, and has the date for such a conference yet been set?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, with regard to the first part of the question, the director of investigation and research under the Combines Investigation Act has submitted his annual report to me, which will be tabled in the house within 30 days. With regard to the second half of the question, the agenda for the federal-provincial conference has not yet been settled. The date is the last part of October. I am not sure that all the provinces have yet agreed on the date, and I do not want to announce it until they have.

TRADE

WHEAT—STEPS TO DISPOSE OF CARRYOVER

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and ask him whether, when he enters the present debate, as I hope he will soon, to outline what steps the government will take to sell our record wheat carryover, he will also take that opportunity to outline what steps the government intends to take to overcome the sharp drop which has taken place in Canada's industrial production.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): The hon. member is always full of generous offers, and I thank him, as I did yesterday.

Mr. Hees: I have a supplementary question. Would the minister be so good as to consider these two very important matters seriously and assure the house that he will enter the debate and give a sensible answer to these two important questions?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, it is well known that even when I smile I am serious.

AIR TRANSPORT

TORONTO—LANDING RIGHTS FOR ALITALIA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hubert Badanai (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister without Portfolio who is associated

Inquiries of the Ministry

with the Minister of Transport. Has the government reached a decision with regard to the granting of landing rights to Alitalia at the Toronto international airport?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Unless this question has an urgency which is unknown to me, it should be placed on the order paper.

EXPO '67

INQUIRY AS TO RECEIPT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Finance. Has the minister received an audited financial statement from the Expo '67 corporation, and if so will he table it?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, may I take this question as notice? I really do not know whether I have received it, but I do not think I have.

[Later:]

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, in answer to a question raised earlier this day by the hon. member for Wellington, may I say that the audited financial statements of Expo have not been received by my department. At the present time the financial statements are in the hands of the Auditor General, and he is probably closer to the Auditor General than I am.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NATO—REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF STATEMENT BY U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the statement by the United States state department to the effect that Soviet military intervention in West Germany would lead to an immediate allied response in accordance with the NATO treaty, was the Canadian government consulted about this statement and asked to associate itself with it? If so, what was the response?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Well, Mr. Speaker, when the United States government speaks through one of its ministers it speaks in its own name, and it does not engage any other country. Its opinion of what is needed would be the opinion of a sovereign