

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Minister of National Revenue): Our department is always ready to look at individual cases. If the man would see the district director, I am sure arrangements could be made.

Mr. Skoberg: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Because of this lack of any real cash on farms and no apparent immediate prospect of remedy, will the minister accept grain in lieu of cash for payment of such income tax?

Mr. Côté (Longueuil): Yes, Mr. Speaker, if the member is ready to shovel it.

WATER RESOURCES

PLACENTIA BAY, NFLD.—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON POLLUTION

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): In the absence of the Minister of Fisheries, I wish to ask the acting minister to draw to the minister's attention that on May 20, as reported in *Hansard* at page 8828, the minister stated he planned to make a full statement within ten days on the entire matter of pollution in Placentia Bay. I wish to find out when that statement will be available.

Mr. E. F. Whelan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries): I ask the hon. member to be patient. Before the minister makes a statement, he is going to visit the area.

TRADE

KENNEDY ROUND—ACCELERATED TARIFF CONCESSIONS BY OTHER COUNTRIES—POTATO IMPORTS

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance, and ask him if there are any discussions going on between his department, or the government, and any of our main trading partners with a view to obtaining accelerated tariff concessions, corresponding with those announced in the budget, bearing in mind the dire need of Canadian agricultural producers of several types, especially potato producers, for gaining a more favourable entry into the United States market?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): As I indicated in the budget speech, Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the reduction in tariffs was basically to reduce costs in Canada, so they were done without consultation with our trading partners. Of course we would be very

pleased to see our trading partners move forward and speed up the Kennedy Round provisions, because I think this is for the good of the world generally, as well as all of Canada.

Mr. MacLean: In any case, would the minister take action to try to obtain more favourable entry into the United States market for Canadian potatoes, since we are a net importer of potatoes?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, we continually press for more favourable entry for some of our products into the United States and other markets, sometimes with success and sometimes without success. This is continuously in our minds and whenever there are discussions with counterparts in the United States and other countries, my officials press for freer entry of goods throughout the world. Indeed a lot of our—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the Minister of Finance agree that this unilateral reduction made by Canada offers Canada an opportunity to do some bargaining to seek reductions in tariffs? Does this not offer us a particular opportunity—

Mr. Speaker: I interrupted the minister a moment ago because I thought we were entering into a debate. I suggest to the hon. Leader of the Opposition this is what we would be doing further, if I were to allow the minister to respond to the supplementary.

STRAWBERRIES—MAINTENANCE OF IMPORT DUTIES

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, this question is directed to the Minister of Finance, and concerns the question of the maintenance of the strawberry tariff through 1969, first proposed to the Minister of National Revenue and later to the Minister of Agriculture. I wonder if the Minister of Finance has any information on this today?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member brought the matter to my attention privately a day or so ago. I made inquiries and I expect a report today. I will chase it up, as I do not know what it contains.