

Inquiries of the Ministry

the Department of Agriculture, and by a commissioner of the Wheat Board. It is an important one, but we are giving even more importance to the meeting of exporters, to which I have already referred, which will take place early in April. As the Prime Minister just said, he will also be speaking to the President of the United States and to the Prime Minister of Australia on the same subject. These are parts of the diplomatic move to which I referred in my statement last Friday.

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Can he give the farmers of western Canada an assurance of such price support as may be necessary to maintain incomes in that very important area of Canada?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture said yesterday that the government is considering many things that would be helpful in this serious situation.

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce whether he will personally participate in the meeting to be held early in April, and whether Canada's position will be in any way based on the suggestion made by Mr. Runciman when he said that an entirely new grains agreement should be drawn up, perhaps scrapping years of work on the old one?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I hope Mr. Runciman's extreme solution will not have to be used. I hope that within the framework of the agreement as it now stands there is room for improvement. With respect to the meeting of exporters I do not yet know if I will personally participate, but if I find there is a possibility that this might be useful, I would certainly do so.

Mr. Korchinski: As a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that we now know this meeting will be held early in April, has the government given consideration to assuring the farmers that they can expect a subsidy from the government until such time as this meeting is held?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I have already answered that question by saying it is premature to look at it from that point of view, and that we are working for a restoration of the I.G.A. pricing schedule.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce whether my interpretation of his remarks today is correct. Do they indicate that he is optimistic that there is not going to be a cut in the price of Canadian wheat, and that the danger of international competition at fire sale prices is not as serious as he believed to be the case on Friday?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I have not changed since Friday. What I said on Friday was that the Wheat Board would be competitive with the other exporters, and this is being done now.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**ESCALATION OF NUCLEAR ARMS RACE FROM CONSTRUCTION OF A.B.M. SYSTEM—REMOVAL OF BOMARC MISSILES**

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the statement by Canada's chief disarmament negotiator to the effect that a galloping arms race between the United States and the U.S.S.R. would be catastrophic for Canada may I ask the right hon. gentlemen whether he intends to make any representations to the President of the United States indicating the danger that the construction of an A.B.M. system may further escalate the nuclear arms race?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I believe I stated yesterday I would be discussing this subject with the President but I doubted whether by next Monday we would have taken a finite position on the United States announcement. I did indicate, and I repeat now, that any danger of escalation is something which we would be very anxious to discuss, and if there is evidence of escalation then we would be ready to indicate our disapproval of such escalation.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): In view of the fact that the Prime Minister's predecessor, the Right Hon. L. B. Pearson, indicated in 1965 that it was his government's intention to begin negotiations to remove United States Bomarc missiles from Canadian soil, is the present administration taking any steps to remove Bomarc missiles from Canada?

Mr. Trudeau: Without conceding that that was exactly what the former prime minister said, I would tell the house what I have said