

Inquiries of the Ministry

or the Minister of Agriculture. Is any consideration being given to the removal of the sales tax on semen which is extensively used by farmers and breeding associations for the improvement of stock?

Hon. W. E. Harris (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, may I say with all respect that this is the type of question the Minister of Finance would prefer not to answer until after the budget.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**INQUIRY AS TO OPERATIONS OF CANADIAN BREWERY IN UNITED STATES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Hosking (Wellington South): I wish to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. As a result of reports that have appeared in the press stating that a certain brewery owned by Canadian capital is not being permitted to operate in four separate states of the United States, has the minister made representations to the United States government complaining about this practice? Would he tell the house whether it is the nature of the industry that makes it objectionable or whether it is because it is a Canadian-owned company?

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): The hon. member was good enough to give me notice of his question before I came into the house. I can say to him and to the house that information was received some days ago that efforts were being made in certain states of the United States to enact legislation which would discriminate against and, indeed, would put out of business, if the legislation were in operation, brewing companies in which the controlling interest was held by persons not citizens of the United States of America. In this case, in effect, that meant Canadians.

As soon as we heard of this proposed action on the part of certain legislatures in the United States we conveyed our concern to the United States government over the undesirable consequences that would follow legislation of this kind if it were put into effect. That concern, Mr. Speaker, is based wholly on the principle involved and not merely on the situation of any particular industry. The United States authorities have already informed us that they share this concern and I understand they have been in touch with the states involved. It is therefore hoped that no further and formal action on our part will be required.

INVITATION TO PRIME MINISTER NEHRU TO VISIT CANADA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): I should like to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the report on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation news this morning that the government of the United States has invited Prime Minister Nehru of India to visit that country, does the government of Canada also intend to invite Prime Minister Nehru to visit Canada at the same time?

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): At the request of the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) some time ago when I was in New Delhi I conveyed to Mr. Nehru a very warm invitation on behalf of the government for the Prime Minister of India to include Canada in any visit he would be making to the United States. Mr. Nehru at that time said he hoped to visit Canada before long but he was unable to give us any definite reply at that time.

MEETING OF PRIME MINISTER WITH PRESIDENT EISENHOWER—SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. Is the Prime Minister now in a position to tell the house what subjects will be discussed when he and President Cortines meet with President Eisenhower at White Sulphur Springs on March 26?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to do that. I have been informed by the Department of the Secretary of State that there would be no predetermined agenda for our meeting.

Mr. Knowles: May I ask a supplementary question? Can the Prime Minister say whether any of his cabinet colleagues will accompany him on this trip?

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): The Secretary of State for External Affairs will be with me on that occasion.

PRAIRIE FARM ASSISTANCE**INQUIRY AS TO AMENDMENTS TO ACT THIS SESSION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. William Bryce (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Can the minister inform the house when he expects to bring