

Inquiries of the Ministry

reconsidered his previous attitude, indicated to the house on October 18, which was not to introduce amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act, and if so will he advise the house whether such badly needed amendments will be introduced this session?

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, this matter has been given serious study and is under consideration by the government at the moment. As soon as a decision has been reached I shall be very glad to inform the house of our intentions.

IMMIGRATION**INQUIRY AS TO TRIP ABROAD BY PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANT**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the parliamentary assistant to the Acting Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, whom I should like to congratulate even though it is not strictly according to the rules, on his well-deserved recognition. I should like to ask the hon. gentleman if he is contemplating going abroad to encourage immigration, because I am sure all of us would agree that he would be a good advertisement for Canada.

Mr. John B. Hamilton (Parliamentary Assistant to the Acting Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I do not think I could have been asked a nicer question on my first day in this office, and I assure the hon. member that if I am going to have a trip abroad I will consult with him first in order to learn the best places to go.

UNITED NATIONS**REPORTED INCREASE IN CANADIAN ASSESSMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. C. A. Best (Halton): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Would the minister comment on published reports that the Canadian assessment by the United Nations is being increased over that of 1957?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend was good enough to indicate to me his intention to ask this question concerning the Canadian assessment by the United Nations, which gives me an opportunity to draw attention to an error in certain published reports in this respect.

On October 28 a report emanated from New York and found its way into some Canadian newspapers to the effect that an increase in the Canadian assessment was being proposed

in the report of the general assembly's committee in contributions from 3.09 per cent to 3.15 per cent. This report is erroneous. The fact is that Canada's percentage is being slightly reduced. The United Nations general assembly has set a ceiling of 33.3 per cent on the United States contribution, and has decided that no member should pay more per capita than the United States. Accordingly, when the United States assessment was reduced to 32.51 per cent it was necessary to reduce the Canadian assessment to 3.09 per cent to maintain the correct per capita relationship between Canadian and United States contributions. At these percentages, both Canada and the United States pay just under 10 cents for each man, woman and child in our respective populations.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, the report confused the percentages. The fact is that the Canadian percentage is being reduced from 3.15 per cent for 1957 to 3.09 per cent.

AGRICULTURE**PRICES SUPPORT FUND—INQUIRY AS TO UNUSED PORTION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. B. Huffman (Kent, Ont.): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture, and in his absence to his parliamentary assistant. What is the unused portion of the \$200 million fund established under the Agricultural Prices Support Act?

Mr. John Charlton (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member for Kent, Ontario, knows that the \$200 million is a revolving fund, and anything outstanding would be the value of the material the board is holding. At the moment, of that \$200 million about \$30 million is outstanding.

Mr. Huffman: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I realize that possibly the parliamentary assistant cannot answer this question but would he take it as notice. Is it the intention of the government to place a floor under this year's crop of sugar beets, since there are sufficient funds in the vote to meet the request for a floor price of \$14 a ton?

Mr. Charlton: The hon. member knows that is government policy, and it will be announced in due course by the minister.

BUTTER—STATEMENT ON PORTION OF INCREASE IN PRICE TO BE RETURNED TO PRODUCER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John Charlton (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture): I should