

EQUIPPING OF AUTOMOBILES WITH
PROTECTIVE DEVICES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare also relates to the immediate problem of smog and air pollution, especially as it affects our metropolitan areas and urban centres. Last week it was brought to the attention of the minister that the United States has ordered that in 1968 all cars to be imported or made in the United States would be equipped with a clean air package.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps I interrupted the hon. member at the wrong moment. Is he about to ask a question?

Mr. Grafftey: The minister said he would look at the situation as it affects Canada and report to the house. Can he inform the house now whether he has looked into this situation, and whether or not the Canadian people will be protected by similar Canadian standards?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first question is yes. The results of my examination have revealed that the matter is under consideration.

Mr. Grafftey: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker; can the minister tell us whether officials of the minister's department are in Washington at the present time to attend the important meeting on air pollution, and is the government seriously considering an overall air pollution policy for the protection of our cities, which are now very seriously affected?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I had notice of a question from the hon. member for York North (Mr. Addison) in connection with this matter. I should like to tell both hon. members that a representative of my department is attending the relevant conference in Washington.

LABOUR RELATIONS

PERSONNEL OF TASK FORCE TO CONSIDER
LABOUR DISPUTES IN INDUSTRY

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, some hon. members have asked questions about the composition of the labour relations task force. I should like to reply now by saying that we have retained the services of four task force members and have selected a full-time executive officer. I think members of the house know that Dean Woods of McGill University is the chairman. Abbé Dion of

Inquiries of the Ministry

Laval University, Professor John Crispo of the University of Toronto, and Dean Carrothers of the University of Western Ontario, are the members of the task force. George Saunders, who is at present the director of the economics and research branch of the Department of Labour, has been lent to the task force as its full-time executive officer. In addition, as work progresses a number of other public servants and outside consultants will be associated with the work of the task force. Some of them have already agreed to serve, but not all of them have yet been approached.

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

SUGAR BEETS INTERIM PAYMENT ON 1966
CROP

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put my question to the Minister of Agriculture.

Has the minister had time to consider the question I put to him yesterday and can he give us an answer today?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the question put yesterday by the member for Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot, I wish to inform the house that the Agricultural Stabilization Board has been authorized to make an interim payment of \$3 per normal ton of sugar beets of the 1966 crop in order to help growers to meet their seasonal obligations.

The board met with the representatives of the growers to determine the most appropriate time to proceed with the interim payments.

As conditions and needs vary from one part of the country to the other, it has been agreed to make payments at such time as is most suitable to each area concerned.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a supplementary question. Does that mean that some areas will receive their interim payments only later and that Quebec is one of those areas?

Mr. Greene: According to our present plans, Mr. Speaker, Ontario producers will soon receive their interim payments. As for the sugar beet growers in the other Canadian provinces, they will receive their interim payments at the beginning of the year, early enough to help them with the start of their spring work.