

Inquiries of the Ministry

prairie provinces on Monday in Winnipeg to consider the implications of the Batten report on prairie retail food prices, as he indicated he would be doing in his reply to my question of last Thursday? If so, can he give the house some indication of what action his department may be directed to take as a result of the discussions?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, actually it was not the three attorneys general whom I met, but rather the three provincial ministers responsible for consumer affairs: The attorney general from Saskatchewan, the minister of industry and tourism from Alberta and the minister of consumer and corporate affairs from Manitoba. I had a most useful meeting with the three ministers, all of whom seemed to approve entirely the action that I was taking.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**JOHN SMITH—REFUSAL TO DIVULGE SOURCE OF INFORMATION**

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): I have a question for the Minister of Justice. In view of the support given by all parties in the house to Bill C-15 which would protect the source of information of news reporters, will the Minister of Justice consider the recent sentencing in Montreal of John Smith, by a fire commissioner, for refusing to reveal the source of his information, with the view to granting of a full pardon?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I suppose that that matter falls within provincial jurisdiction, under provincial statute. However, certainly the principles involved in that inquiry interest me a great deal. The hon. member will appreciate that since this case is currently before a board I can say nothing more at the present time.

AGRICULTURE**TOMATOES—STABILIZATION OF CANADIAN PRICE**

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Speaker. Since Canadian producers will be in a position in a very few days to provide top quality tomatoes for the domestic market, can the minister say whether the government plans to initiate any action to stabilize the Canadian price, now abnormally depressed because of considerable quantities of low priced imports of this commodity?

[Mr. McGrath.]

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): We are aware of significant changes in the price of imported tomatoes and we have this problem under active consideration. However, I am not prepared today to announce any specific steps to deal with it.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**HARBOURING OF DESERTERS IN CONTRAVENTION OF ALLIANCE AGREEMENTS**

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Some days ago, Mr. Speaker, I directed a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It was in two parts. The first was:

Are there any provisions in Canada's collective alliance agreements which prohibit Canada's harbouring deserters from nations associated with Canada in such alliances?

The second part was:

Have any discussions been held on this question between the authorities of the United States and Canada?

I wonder whether the minister has a reply to make to these questions today.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The answer to the first part of the question is that the only relevant provision in Canadian collective alliance agreements is that contained in the NATO status of forces agreement. However this agreement is limited in its application to NATO forces on official duty in receiving states, in this case Canada. The answer to the second part of the question is that there have been no recent discussions on the subject between the authorities of our two countries.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS**RECONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSIONS ON SPENDING PRIORITIES**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask the Minister of Finance, who no doubt is fully familiar by now with the substantial tax increases announced in the legislature of New Brunswick last evening, including a 10 per cent surtax and a wide range of increases in sales taxes, whether in these circumstances he would reconsider his refusal to discuss priorities in spending with this and other provinces, in a meaningful way.

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): We have at all times been willing to discuss priorities. When the hon. gentleman indicates