

reasonable report on the part of Dr. Hall. That being the case, the free collective bargaining system—a system that both parties support—has resulted in a strike. I still hope we will find an early resolution to this dispute. I have no other recourse but to entertain that hope.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POSSIBILITY OF RESUMPTION OF URANIUM SHIPMENTS TO EUROPE

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Because of the great damage that is being done to Canadian-European relations by the suspension of uranium shipments, can he assure us that these questions, which have been under discussion when Mr. Brunner was here from the European Economic Community, are now settled and that we are on the path to a solution?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that we are on the path to a solution. That means that the matter is not wholly settled. During the talks with Mr. Brunner I was able to eliminate a number of the issues that have been preventing a resumption of shipments, but there are a number, some of which are of a technical nature but one or two which are substantive, on which Mr. Brunner could not give answers without consulting with his colleagues. He is now in the process of doing that. I will be meeting him in Brussels next week and I am hopeful that at that time some mutually satisfactory conclusion can be arrived at that will permit us to resume shipments.

* * *

AGRICULTURE

ALLEGED OVERCHARGING FOR BULK PURCHASES OF GASOLINE—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron-Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. For some time now farmers have been charged up to 12 cents a gallon more for gas that they get in bulk tanks to use in tractors and combines than other customers who get their gas in bulk tanks and by that I do not necessarily mean service station operators. I want to ask the minister if he has made representations on behalf of the farmers in this regard and what answer he received or, if he has not made representations, why he has not.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, some representations have been made to me over a period of time by farmers who have pointed out, as did the hon. member, that they can buy gas cheaper from a service station than by having it delivered in a bulk tank on their farm. It is an unfair marketing system that gas companies have. We have

Oral Questions

made representations to them. There does not seem to be anything we can do to make them change their minds.

An hon. Member: Yes there is.

An hon. Member: Nationalize them?

Mr. McKinley: In view of the fact that last year and this year agricultural income will be down probably by nearly 50 per cent, I think the minister should try a little harder to look after the people whom he has been appointed to look after.

* * *

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

AVAILABILITY TO PUBLIC OF TASCHEREAU PAPERS

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister, in the absence of the Prime Minister, and it is put to him also in his capacity as President of Privy Council. I would like to ask him, if members opposite would give me a moment to speak, a question which arises from the fact that the Taschereau papers on national security were not made public as scheduled within the last few months and instead were taken to the Privy Council and the Prime Minister's Office from the Public Archives. Is the government now prepared to follow the democratic process by allowing these papers in their entirety to be made available to the public and news media for scrutiny and, if so, when and, if not, what are the reasons for not doing so?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister): I can assure the hon. member that the government follows democratic processes in all its activities.

An hon. Member: When?

Mr. MacEachen: I am not up to date on the papers to which the hon. member refers. I will take the question as notice and answer it as soon as possible.

* * *

FISHERIES

DATE GROUND FISH FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN AVAILABLE

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the interest in Atlantic Canada, both among inshore and offshore fishermen, in fishing quotas for 1978, would the minister indicate whether he has yet finalized the Atlantic coast groundfish fisheries management plan and whether our quotas for next year will be decreased, will remain the same, or will be increased, and when we may expect the groundfish fisheries plan to be made available in the House.

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, firm recommendations have not yet been made to me. However, the plan should be available in a