

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the hon. member is using as the basis for his allegation as to Mr. Bertrand's position. If he will explain exactly what he means by that I will be glad to answer his question. However, if his question is merely whether it is our intention at this time to set up a royal commission, I should like to take it as notice and give a specific answer tomorrow or Monday.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister taking the question as notice. Prime Minister Bertrand has alleged that he wrote a letter on November 27—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member kindly ask a direct question.

Mr. Woolliams: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister indicate whether the government received a letter from Prime Minister Bertrand in reference to the central intelligence mechanism set up by the federal government, and whether Quebec is actively taking a part in this regard as are other provinces in Canada?

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bertrand wrote a letter on November 21, 1967 in reply to a letter from the then Solicitor General dated November 6, 1967. This subject was referred to and dealt with in that reply.

Mr. Woolliams: Would the minister answer the last part of the question? Is Quebec actively taking part in this central intelligence mechanism set up by the federal government, as are the other provinces?

Mr. McIlraith: No, Mr. Speaker, Quebec is not a member at the moment, but there is very good co-operation between the federal and Quebec police authorities. There is a very good and continuous working relationship at the present time between the R.C.M.P. and the Quebec provincial police.

AGRICULTURE**CORN—DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. RESPECTING DUMPING**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, now that the Minister of Agriculture is back with us I should like to ask him to answer the question I put to the acting minister last Monday. It had reference to his visit with the United States secretary of agriculture in Washington concerning the dumping of United States corn in Canada.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, in respect of the question the hon. member for Oxford posed on October 7 and repeated today, discussions on this problem have already commenced between the officials of the government of Canada and those of the United States government in Washington. Indeed another meeting is to be held and further discussions will take place tomorrow morning. I have been attempting to get in touch with Secretary Freeman to talk with him about this matter. Perhaps I should advise hon. members that there was a death in his family early this week, which has made this situation a little more difficult.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, will the minister indicate whether he has agreed to the request of the farmers that their representative accompany him on any visit he may make to Washington?

Mr. Olson: I think there is a wrong assumption being made that I am going to Washington. I said we would approach the United States government. We have done that, and discussions are taking place at this time. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition would not want me to frustrate in any way the success of those discussions by making statements here while they are taking place.

Mr. Horner: You told the farmers their representative would be going.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture.

Since he is now considering the problem of U.S. corn imports, can he also consider tomato imports, more especially in the eastern townships where the crop has to be left on the fields due to such imports.

[*English*]

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, my department has not been informed that the problem in respect of tomatoes is as severe as the hon. gentleman has indicated, but I can advise him that the Department of Agriculture is vitally concerned with all commodities.

TRADE**WHEAT—REPORTED FRENCH OFFER TO SELL AT BELOW AGREED PRICE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of