

Inquiries of the Ministry

province has the power to pass legislation by which, by referendum, it could opt out of confederation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are looking into the matter.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, would the Prime Minister be prepared to acquaint the house with the decision reached by the government when it has looked into the constitutionality of this matter?

Mr. Trudeau: Well, it would depend on the circumstances. At this stage I do not know whether Mr. Bertrand's statement is more than a hypothesis. If it becomes real, of course we may have to act on whatever conclusions we have reached.

GRAIN**WHEAT—ACREAGE PAYMENT IN COMPENSATION FOR LIMITATION OF EXPORTS**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Agriculture I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he received a telegram from the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities concerning the fact that a declaration has been made that a five bushel quota will be the total amount any farmer can expect to sell and that 315 million bushels will be the limit on exports this year? Would he say, in answer to their request, whether the government, in order to meet what is described as a discouraging outlook, will support the request of this association that the western grain farmers receive an acreage payment of \$2 per acre?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture, who was in the house until a few moments ago, is at present meeting with the ministers of agriculture from, I believe, six provinces who are in Ottawa today. It is possible he has received these representations; I have not.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Then, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the President of the Privy Council this question. In view of the fact that in the outline he gave concerning what the government considers should be done between now and June 27 no reference was made to any assistance or legislation on behalf of western farmers to meet the situation described by the Saskatchewan Association of Rural

Municipalities as dangerous, does this mean that the government has forgotten the western farmer and the terrible situation on the prairies today?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): No, Mr. Speaker. As the Prime Minister indicated, the Minister of Agriculture is meeting with provincial representatives. Of course, if on his advice the government should decide that legislation could be brought forward at a later date which would assist the situation, the statement I made earlier would be amended accordingly.

[*Translation*]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Can he tell us whether he was invited by the JOC—Jeunesse ouvrière catholique (Young Catholic Workers)—to participate in "Carrefour '69" (Crossroads 69) last week-end?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I doubt that the question is in order. The hon. member is alluding to an invitation to a meeting which has already been held. I doubt that the question is in order, but if I do not interpret it correctly, the hon. member might perhaps put it again.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I myself participated in this important event which brought together representatives of several groups of young people; they all wondered whether the invitation had reached its destination.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I see I interpreted the question correctly. It should be put on the order paper.

[*English*]

IMMIGRATION**ADMISSION TO CANADA OF U.S. DESERTERS**

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has there been any reaction from representatives of the United States government to the decision of the Canadian government to allow deserters from the United States armed forces to enter Canada on the same basis as all other immigrants? These deserters are reportedly receiving special consideration with regard to processing of applications.