

minister act upon Mr. Lawson's request and call a conference at an early date?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to give the representation of the hon. member and his chum, the president of CMA, full consideration.

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### CONSUMER AFFAIRS

#### SUGAR—REQUEST FOR ACTION TO CONTROL PRICE

**Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. With the wholesale cost of sugar rising over 400 per cent in 11 months and the industry predicting it will go to \$75 in mid-November and \$120 by January, when will the minister step in and stop retail prices from this skyrocketing spiral which could bring sugar to \$1.50 a pound retail?

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I previously answered a question relating to sugar in this House and I said that the government would soon announce its policy. I would therefore ask the hon. member to wait for this announcement.

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[English]

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN ROME—PROPOSAL BY UNITED STATES TO ESTABLISH EXPORT PLANNING GROUP

**Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister. At the World Food Conference in Rome today, the United States proposed a new export planning group which is seen by many in Rome to be another rich man's club in control of vital commodities. Will the Canadian delegation in Rome be instructed by the government to insist that any such new group have representative membership of rich and poor nations so that a power cartel on food will be avoided?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am inclined to agree with the sentiments expressed by the hon. member. I will take his suggestions under consideration.

**Mr. Roche:** Recognizing the Acting Prime Minister will want to examine the United States proposal in detail, may I ask whether he will now give his assurance that any food authority established at the Rome conference will be truly international and that Canada will insist on this?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, that will be in accordance with established government policy.

### Oral Questions

● (1430)

### CONSUMER AFFAIRS

#### SUGAR—ALLEGATION LARGER AMOUNT IN STORAGE THIS YEAR THAN LAST—INCREASED MARK-UPS

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** A supplementary question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. The hon. gentleman informed the House that he had answered questions on this subject earlier. But the people of Canada are not asking for sugar-coated ministerial statements. They are asking for action.

**Some hon. Members:** Question!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Will the minister tell us whether or not an inventory has been taken of the amount of sugar in storage in Canada? Do present stocks amount to a great deal more than at this time last year? With prices rising at an outrageous rate, and sugar refineries making tremendous profits, surely we are entitled to a better answer than being told that some day, some place, we shall be advised as to what is happening.

Does he realize that the sugar refineries are before the courts today? I do not say whether they are guilty or not guilty. But if they are found guilty, the amount they have been able to mulct from the Canadian public in the last few weeks would pay several of the largest fines.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, there are several aspects to the question raised by the right hon. member. I do not think I could examine all of them during the question period; I can however assure him that, as far as I am concerned, my department has assumed its responsibilities and has initiated proceedings against three Eastern Canada refineries. Also, we support the Plumptre board's recommendations concerning rates. Moreover, we are waiting impatiently for the hon. Minister of Agriculture's recommendations as to the possibility of increasing to a certain extent sugar production in Canada. Finally, we support the efforts of the hon. Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce concerning international agreements.

[English]

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** We have heard all those exculpatory statements over and over again. Is it not a fact that there are in storage today on behalf of the sugar corporations of Canada larger amounts of sugar than were held last year certainly, or for several years, and that the prices of the stocks on hand and purchased at lower rates than today are now being marked up and up day by day, whereby totally unconscionable increases are taking place?

[Translation]

**Mr. Ouellet:** If what the right hon. member is saying is true, I hope he will support the steps I will take when I introduce a profiteering bill later on during this session.