

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to take that question as notice.

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**FINANCE****REASON FOR HIGHER BANK RATE IN CANADA THAN IN UNITED STATES—EFFECT ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT**

**Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance but in his absence I will direct it to the Acting Prime Minister. Why is Canada's bank rate higher than that in the United States, and does this not encourage foreign investment in Canada?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. A question of this nature cannot be asked at this time.

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**AGRICULTURE****POTATOES—RESPONSE TO REPRESENTATIONS FOR ACTION TO RELIEVE DEPRESSED MARKET—POSSIBLE DIVERSION TO STOCK FEED**

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. I am delighted to have the opportunity to ask him this question because for some days I have been trying to get answers from the President of the Privy Council and others with respect to the disposition of a number of carloads of potatoes that the Agricultural Stabilization Board has in Prince Edward Island. Did the minister's office receive a telegram this morning from the chairman of the Prince Edward Island Potato Co-ordination Committee expressing extreme dissatisfaction and surprise that the Agricultural Stabilization Board has not yet made a decision on using stocks of potatoes under the board's control for stock feed on Prince Edward Island? In light of the fact that very shortly these potatoes will be of little use even for feed—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Would the hon. member ask his question. We are short of time.

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

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether we are in receipt of that particular telegram, but I am well aware of the requests that have been made. There is another consideration that has to be taken into account, and that is the interests of those producers who have taken an advance payment. Now that the price in Prince Edward Island is well above the price at which these potatoes were purchased, those producers to whom an advance payment was made have some right to reacquire these potatoes and take advantage of the higher price by selling them on the market.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** As a supplementary—

[Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West.)]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Egmont seeks a supplementary and also the hon. member for Malpeque. There are four minutes remaining before the end of the question period. I also see the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants who I think should be recognized. He has been trying to get the floor for a few days.

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

**Mr. McCleave:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** On a point of order—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I apologize profusely to the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants. The hon. member for Egmont seeks the floor on a point of order.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** I seek the floor because the Minister of Agriculture has deliberately misled the House.

**Mr. Olson:** Not at all.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member cannot, according to the rules, charge another member, whether a minister or private member, with deliberately misleading the House. The hon. member knows that that is unparliamentary. Hon. members may mislead other members but not deliberately; they cannot be charged with that capital offence. The hon. member, I am sure, will withdraw this suggestion. We are now just two minutes from the end of the question period. If the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants will be patient he will be recognized in one moment.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** I would not accuse this minister of doing anything deliberately, but it is very true—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Olson:** Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege, under the rules of the House the hon. member is required to withdraw the statement he has made. You, Mr. Speaker, asked him to do so, and he is not doing it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Egmont knows what the rules are. He is required to withdraw, and I am sure he will.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, this minister would not do anything deliberately but he did mislead the House in suggesting that in fact potato growers in Prince Edward Island—

**An hon. Member:** Be a man for once.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** —are in a position whereby they are going to get a great deal more for their potatoes than earlier expected. This is only due to an artificially inflated price because of the shortage of reefer cars and it is not—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That is debate. The hon. member, I take it, has withdrawn the statement. He has no right to suggest that another member has deliberately misled the House. I am sure it is recognized by all hon. members that the rules have to be respected by them if