

*Inquiries of the Ministry*PRODUCTION AND RECEIPTS POLICY—CONSIDERATION OF
ALTERNATIVE MANITOBA PLAN

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, my question relates to the answer the minister gave me on Wednesday with regard to his meeting with the Minister of Agriculture of Manitoba. Since the Minister of Agriculture of Manitoba has advanced a program for assistance to farmers that is obviously far superior to the stabilization program presently—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member please ask his supplementary question.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, would the minister give consideration to the advantages of the alternative plan advanced by the Minister of Agriculture of Manitoba?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's supplementary question is a representation. He has to assume that it will be taken into account. The Chair will recognize one more member for a supplementary question on this subject, the hon. member for Regina East, after which we will go to another matter.

PRODUCTION AND RECEIPTS POLICY—METHOD OF TAKING
INCREASED COSTS INTO ACCOUNT

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board if the government, in reviewing its original proposals in the grain policy statement, is giving consideration to means whereby increasing costs can be taken into account in its stabilization proposal?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we are of course looking at all suggestions which might be made to us, including the one put to me the other day by the Minister of Agriculture of Manitoba. Of course, while looking at it we should note that the producer contribution required for that plan would be in the order of 12 per cent.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

APPLICATION BY FALCONBRIDGE NICKEL FOR GRANT—
ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of a statement made by the Ontario Minister of Mines that the federal government has discriminated against Ontario in the matter of a regional development grant to build a smelter for Falconbridge Nickel at Bécancour, Quebec, can the minister say if Falconbridge Nickel ever applied for a grant to build a smelter in Ontario and, if so, was its application turned down?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is asking about events which took place some time ago. I think his question ought to be put in writing or, if it is urgent, it could be considered at the time of adjournment.

[Mr. Lang.]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER AT COMMONWEALTH
CONFERENCE—RELATIONSHIP TO UNEMPLOYMENT
IN CANADA

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister which is related to a statement attributed to the Prime Minister in Singapore today. In one of his major contributions he delivered a lecture to his colleagues from Asia and Africa about the fact that the 1970's would be a decade of grave problems flowing from social unrest. While welcoming this belated recognition, may we also hope that it will also be reflected in a change of government policy toward the hundreds of thousands of unemployed in this country?

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HEALTH

ASSISTANCE TO UNEMPLOYED, PENSIONERS AND WELFARE
RECIPIENTS IN PAYMENT OF DRUG COSTS

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Health and Welfare may I direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the large numbers of unemployed persons, low income pension recipients and people on welfare who are provided with medical care under the medicare legislation but who have no funds to purchase drugs, and in view of the urgency of filling the prescriptions of these unfortunate persons without delay, may I ask if the minister has any plans to take care of this situation immediately?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will refer this matter to the Minister of National Health and Welfare who will be in the House within the next day or so.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): He is supposed to be here today.

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WELFARE

INQUIRY AS TO AGENDA OF FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL
MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the importance of the federal-provincial welfare ministers' conference which is to begin on Monday, can he tell us what the agenda will be and whether extra assistance is to be advanced to provinces because of their rapidly depleting welfare budgets?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will not personally be attending that meeting. It will be attended by the federal ministers responsible. I am sure the agenda will be released as soon as it has been agreed upon. It has to be agreed to, as I think the hon. member will concede, by the provincial ministers concerned.