

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

not usefully answer the remaining part of the question.

**Mr. Woolliams:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the government prepared to recognize China?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** As I said last week, Mr. Speaker, I dealt with this matter rather fully on May 22, 1964.

**Mr. Woolliams:** A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since May, 1964, have the circumstances changed? In view of the fact that China now has some knowledge and information about nuclear weapons, has the attitude of the minister or the government changed or remained static since May, 1964?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, these additional factors, to which my hon. friend directs our attention, naturally are playing a part in studies that are current.

**TRADE****GATT—REQUEST FOR LIST OF CANADIAN GOODS TO BE CONSIDERED**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact that yesterday at the conference in Geneva 17 nations submitted proposals for tariff reductions, when will the proposals that were submitted by Canada be made known to the members of this house?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, the negotiations that began on November 17 by the tabling of offer lists and exceptions lists in Geneva are being carried on in secret, and I hope that until the negotiations are concluded members of this house do not hear about them.

**Mr. Olson:** How long will it be until some of the producers in this country know which products are being offered for tariff reductions?

**Mr. Sharp:** I would hesitate to give a forecast of the length of the negotiations. I think they will extend over a very considerable period, and an announcement will be made when agreement is reached.

**Mr. Olson:** Has the minister any reason to believe that these negotiations will succeed if there are no proposals respecting agricultural commodities, the inclusion of which is insisted upon by the United States and France?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, we would not be engaging in these negotiations if we did not think they will succeed. The only decision that has been made so far is that of November 16, the suggested reductions in tariffs on industrial products should be tabled by the various participating countries. The question of the reduction on agricultural products has not yet been decided in the sense of the method for negotiation or the tabling of lists, but it is the firm view of Canada and of the United States that these negotiations should cover the full range of the articles in which we are interested.

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** I do not wish to press the minister to give any information which might injure the negotiations which are going on, but since the European common market countries have already made it known that they have submitted lists of items with regard to which they are not prepared to agree to reductions, and these items constitute 16 per cent of the total, can the hon. gentleman tell us whether Canada has submitted a list of items with respect to which it is not prepared to permit reductions and, if so, what percentage of the total would be involved?

**Mr. Sharp:** As most hon. members know, the form of our participation in these negotiations is different from that of the United States and Europe. We have not agreed to the general formula of a 50 per cent across the board tariff cut; Canada will be making reductions of equivalent value in terms of access to other markets. The form of our list was therefore a positive one. It was not a negative list; it was a list of reductions we are prepared to contemplate on the assumption that the other countries are making a 50 per cent across the board cut without exception. This is one of the reasons it would be most disadvantageous to our bargaining position for any of the present lists to be published; they are merely the opening of negotiations and not necessarily the lists which would be effective when we reach the end of the bargaining.

**Mr. Douglas:** I appreciate that point, and ask the minister whether he could give the house some idea of the percentage of the total items which would be involved in the positive list which Canada has submitted in respect of which we would be prepared to consider making reductions for equivalent value.