

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

PURPOSE OF TRIP BY MINISTER OF JUSTICE TO LONDON

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Acting Prime Minister.

Could he advise the House whether the Justice Minister's trip to London is designed to have the Westminster government accept a Canadian resolution concerning the repatriation of our constitution?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether I could answer that question with a simple yes or no, but I can confirm that the Minister of Justice is in London to talk about the procedure which would be followed in bringing the Canadian constitution to Canada, which I hope will be accomplished.

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[Translation]

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCESTUDY OF FORMULA TO AMEND CONSTITUTION—
UNANIMITY OF PROVINCES

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question I wish to direct to the Acting Prime Minister.

Could he tell this House, considering a lack of consensus on the part of the provinces on the new amending formula, whether the federal government has decided to delete from the Victoria conference agenda any consideration of the amending formula, in such a way that the discussions would deal only with the repatriation of the Canadian constitution?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is not my understanding that the differences among the provinces and the federal government are such that they would interfere with the accomplishment of a fundamental reform of the constitution. The Canadian government is proceeding on the basis that there is a wish and, indeed, a desire to accomplish this fundamental reform that was discussed at the last meeting.

POSSIBLE CHANGE IN DATE BECAUSE OF SASKATCHEWAN
ELECTION

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, will the announcement that an election is to take place in Saskatchewan on June 23 mean a change in the date of the meeting to discuss constitutional amendment which is scheduled for Victoria on June 14?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. I think the conference will proceed as planned.

[Mr. Sharp.]

DRUGSDISPENSING OF VITAMIN PREPARATIONS BY
PRESCRIPTION

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare based upon his statement earlier on motions that his department seeks to reduce the cost of prescription drugs. Are any plans afoot within his department to place vitamin preparations on a prescription basis?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Not that I am aware of, Mr. Speaker, but I will check into it.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): When the minister is checking into that, will he also check to see whether any representations have been made to that end and inform us from whom representations have been received?

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[Translation]

GRAIN

BARLEY—ALLEGED HIGHER PRICE TO EASTERN FARMERS

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board.

The Canadian Wheat Board is said to have recently sold for export 100,000 tons of feed barley at a price of 93 cents a bushel, F.O.B. Churchill, and my question is: Why do Eastern Canada cattle farmers always have to buy their feed barley at a price higher than that set by the Canadian Wheat Board for export purposes?

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I would want to take that question as notice to ascertain the facts. It is not normal to comment on the sale price of a particular sale of barley. Of course, from time to time prices do vary on the basis of different ports and destinations, and transportation costs to the interior of Canada are certainly different from those simply out of Churchill.

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INDUSTRYFOREST PRODUCTS, CHEMICALS—DETERIORATING FINAN-
CIAL POSITION—BUDGET ACTION

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Has the minister become aware, and, if so, has he advised his fellow cabinet members, of the worsening position in the Canadian forest products industry which this year has seen a further decline in profits of some 90 per cent, the