Inquiries of the Ministry

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, as I asked the question yesterday it was, does the government of Canada agree with these extraordinary statements which are purported to have been made by the secretary general, or is this just the view of the secretary general without regard to Canada's views or the views of other commonwealth countries?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, when my right hon. friend sees the transcript I am sending him he will observe that the transcript does not correspond in precise terms with my right hon. friend's interpretation of yesterday.

Mr. Diefenbaker: May I suggest that the minister read the quotations in the press reports. All three press reports are to the effect that I quoted yesterday.

TRADE

POSSIBLE REPRISALS AGAINST CANADIAN COMPANIES IN U.S. MARKET

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce in view of the guide lines laid down in the letter to foreign subsidiaries in Canada. Has the minister heard of any cases of Canadian companies which have large sales in the United States hesitating to deal with the six countries on the forbidden list under the United States act because of fear of retaliation by the United States government regarding Canadian goods entering the United States.

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): No, Mr. Speaker, I have not.

AGRICULTURE

CHEESE—ABILITY OF PRODUCERS TO FILL U.S. QUOTA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture a question based on the statement made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Does Canada have enough cheddar cheese to fill the increased quotas announced to the United States, or should Canadian dairy farmers be encouraged to produce more of this excellent product?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am inclined to consider this question, though very important, one which should be placed on the order paper.

[Later:]

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if you would allow me to make a plea asking you to reconsider your ruling and permit me to ask the Minister of Agriculture a question for the following reason; that new, substantial additional markets have opened up for Canadian cheese, and farmers would like to know about this because the major producing season is just before us.

Mr. Speaker: To help the farmers I shall allow the Minister of Agriculture to answer.

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): To help the farmers, Mr. Speaker, I am willing even to transgress the sacred rules of this house.

Some hon, Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Greene: I assure my hon. friend that production now is extremely good, and I feel certain that the farmers of Canada will be able to fill all needs for domestic as well as for foreign markets.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Since the question just asked was ruled out of order and then permitted, and as my question was ruled out of order, might I be permitted to put it again? I was ruled out of order on a question with respect to workers. I wonder if the minister might be allowed to reply to my question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

POWER

NELSON RIVER—FEDERAL AGENCY TO CARRY ON NEGOTIATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Richard Cashin (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys. I wonder whether the minister could inform the house whether a federal organization has yet been set up to finalize arrangements between the government of Canada and the government of Manitoba pertaining to the Nelson river power development.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): Yes, Mr. Speaker.