

parliamentary secretary be ready to recommend to the Minister of Agriculture to review the policy being carried out by the Canadian Dairy Commission in order to help dairy producers?

Mr. Florian Côté (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for Lotbinière for having passed on to me the statistical data he had, since I was wondering whether they were accurate or whether the hon. member was finding it somewhat difficult to understand them. As a matter of fact, if he had read the whole bulletin, he would have seen that instead of a decrease, it is actually an increase for 1968 in comparison with 1967, and that with regard to the 1963-67 average, it is an increase of 14.8 per cent.

It seems to be exactly the opposite of what the hon. member said, and the misunderstanding comes from the fact he does not understand the figures.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

Would the Parliamentary Secretary be ready, with all the vicious honesty for which he is known, to go and explain those figures to the farmers in Quebec?

An hon. Member: Think before you speak!

[English]

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NEWFOUNDLAND—AGREEMENT ON PROGRAM —MEETING WITH PREMIER

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I wished to direct my question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion but in his absence I will direct it to his parliamentary secretary. Will he advise whether the federal government is about to sign an agreement with the province of Newfoundland in respect of a regional development program?

Mr. Russell C. Honey (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, similar questions have been asked within the last month or five weeks and I think the minister's answer is on record. If there are any recent developments I will advise the hon. member.

Mr. Marshall: May I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Transport? Is he in a position to disclose to me and to the

Inquiries of the Ministry

house the results of a meeting held yesterday with the premier of Newfoundland in respect of a regional development program?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, I have to intervene in this regard because I doubt whether the Minister of Transport is the minister who should reply to that particular question.

Mr. Marshall: Perhaps I could direct it to the parliamentary secretary.

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could direct the hon. member's question to the Prime Minister.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Go ahead.

Mr. McGrath: Did the Prime Minister meet with the premier of Newfoundland in the last few days to discuss a regional development program for that province?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker.

INCOME TAX

INCREASED EXEMPTIONS FOR PENSIONERS AND SUPERANNUATES

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance which is related to questions asked a few minutes ago in respect of the further increase in the cost of living, as it affects pensioners. In view of the situation will the minister consider increasing the income tax exemptions for pensioners and superannuates?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, although I will consider any suggestion made by the hon. member, I cannot undertake that I will consider this in the immediate future.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

INQUIRY AS TO ALLEGED DELAY IN RECEIPT OF REPORT BY STAFF RELATIONS BOARD —REQUEST FOR TABLING

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Supply and Services in reference to a report of the chief adjudicator to the Public Service Staff Relations Board, in respect of which he replied on Wednesday last.

I now ask whether he has investigated the considerable gap between the date of the decision, namely April 30, and the date the report was received by the Public Service