

food and, indeed, if there should be the Food and Drug Directorate would withhold that food. In other words, there is a nil tolerance.

Mr. Gleave: In view of the fact that the threat in respect of this chemical is not the residue which may be left in plants but rather its effect on people who may use it, will the minister undertake in the near future to make a statement on motions concerning the use of this chemical and outline the manner in which it may be used.

Mr. Olson: Yes, Mr. Speaker. As I said in my previous answer a few days ago, this question is under active review at the present time.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES ON USE OF PICLORAM TO DEFOLIATE BORDER

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. On two or three occasions I have raised with him the question of the use of picloram for the purpose of defoliating the Canada-U.S. border and he stated his intention to look into the matter further to see if it could not be reconsidered. Has the minister any further information on this subject?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I think, Mr. Speaker, I have very little I can add to what I said previously. We have inquired into the possible damage and we have been assured that it is safe to use this chemical in the border areas. All the information I have is a reassurance on that point.

TRANSFER OF NERVE GAS FROM OKINAWA TO UNITED STATES

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have a related question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It concerns the projected transportation of nerve gas from Okinawa to this continent. A week ago the minister said he would give the House some information. Can he tell us now whether the United States government has acceded to the continued request that another route be found so that the nerve gas will not pass through the Strait of Juan de Fuca and whether he has any information concerning the date when the transfer is to take place?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): As the House will have noticed, we have been receiving some support from governors of states through which the nerve gas would pass. Apparently the United States government has not decided whether or not it will pay any attention to these protests as well as to ours.

IMMIGRATION

POLICY RESPECTING POLISH-JEWISH REFUGEES

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Will the minister state when the government will have a policy regarding Polish-Jewish refugees.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we do have a policy with regard to these refugees.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

PROSPECTIVE LAY-OFF OF CPR CLERKS—LEGISLATION BASED ON FREEDMAN REPORT

Mr. David Orlikow (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, this question is directed to the Minister of Labour. In view of the announced lay-off of between 500 and 800 employees of the CPR, an industry which does come under the jurisdiction of the federal government, can the minister indicate whether the government intends to bring forward in the near future legislation based on the Freedman commission report which would deal with this kind of lay-off?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should know that, under the present collective agreement between the CPR and members of the affected union there is a provision for this type of advance notice. The difference of opinion between the railway and the union concerns whether a section of the collective agreement has been violated. I am now informed by the union that the matter is to go to arbitration in order that a decision may be rendered.

Mr. Orlikow: In view of the fact that there is a dispute concerning whether or not this action is covered, and in view of the fact that many agreements do not have that kind of provision, can the minister indicate whether the government intends to bring in legislation incorporating the recommendations in the Freedman report?