

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): I announced some time ago that we are continuing the policy of deferring payments under FCC for any individual who can demonstrate that he is unable to meet those commitments. As far as the other part of the question is concerned, I believe the hon. member knows that the government has provided \$100 million to relieve the grain industry and that there have been very significant improvements in the dairy industry recently.

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AGRICULTURE

FARM MACHINERY—COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION OF CENTRAL TESTING AND EVALUATION AGENCY

Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley): My question is also directed to the Minister of Agriculture. Is the government planning to implement the recommendation of the Barber report on farm machinery with regard to establishing an independent agency to develop and test new machinery?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): I cannot say positively today that we shall establish such an institute but we are giving serious consideration to the recommendation.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RELATIONSHIP OF PROTOCOL WITH RUSSIA TO CANADIAN ROLE IN NATO AND NORAD

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): I wonder if I might direct my question to the Prime Minister. While it is regrettable that he did not see fit to make a full statement today on his trip to Russia—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Forrestall: You cannot call Friday's one. If the people of Canada consider his intrusion on Friday to be a statement on his trip—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Forrestall: That was a sort of cowardly approach on Friday. I wonder if the Prime Minister can give the House some indication whether or not there will be briefings of our officials within the context both of NATO and NORAD with respect to the conclusions and the purposes of the protocol so as to remove any possible misunderstandings with respect to our attitude here in North America?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The Secretary of State for External Affairs is leaving tomorrow for the NATO meetings which are being held in Europe and I am sure he will have occasion to inform our colleagues in NATO on any points they may wish to be clear about. He may also refer to the Conservative motion on Friday.

Inquiries of the Ministry

POSITION OF SOVIET UNION RESPECTING BALANCED REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Last week I was seeking information from the Secretary of State for External Affairs as to the change in the Russian position with regard to a reduction of troops in Europe. In view of the statement by the Prime Minister that the Secretary of State for External Affairs is leaving for an important meeting, can the minister indicate, or create an opportunity—I am sure the House would consent—to describe to the House what was meant by a phrase equivalent to appropriate conditions with relation to the meeting which the Prime Minister of Canada and the government of Russia urged should be held with regard to this whole subject? What are the conditions under which Canada—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. My understanding is that the Leader of the Opposition has inquired whether a statement will be made on motions. Certainly the type of statement he now suggests would normally be made by the minister on motions.

Mr. Stanfield: With respect, Mr. Speaker, I have been seeking this information for more than a week. On one occasion, the Secretary of State for External Affairs apologized for not having provided it. He is now leaving the country in connection with these matters and I call it to the attention of the Secretary of State for External Affairs again, particularly in view of the joint declaration made by the Prime Minister of Canada and the appropriate representative of Russia with regard to this whole matter.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I think I can answer the question quite briefly, Mr. Speaker. The NATO forces in their communiqué of last December did propose negotiations on mutual arms reductions under certain conditions. The Warsaw Pact, in its reply, used these words:

It would help to lessen tension and promote security in Europe if a reduction of foreign armed forces on the territories of European states were discussed.

Mr. Brezhnev, on March 30, 1971, amplified this and indicated a change which we considered to be important. He stood for "a reduction of armed forces and armaments in areas where the military confrontation was especially dangerous and above all in central Europe". This is the area which was referred to by the NATO powers.

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[Translation]

POWER

PROPOSED JAMES BAY HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT—PARTICIPATION OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Regarding the large James Bay resource development project in which the Quebec government and Hydro-