

Inquiries of the Ministry

out of an answer given yesterday in reply to a question asked by the hon. member for Acadia. It had reference to quotas on exports of crude petroleum from the province of Alberta and other western provinces, and the minister said in effect that he had had some discussions with the Americans and that they were going to have further discussions. I was wondering if he would tell us what concrete proposals he suggested to the Americans.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Woolliams: He has told us about the words and the meanings, but what concrete proposals did he make in order to keep the production of crude petroleum at a level of 800 million barrels a day, taking into account our domestic consumption as well as exports?

[Later:]

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a further question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. As he did not answer my previous question, do I take it that he made no proposals to the Americans as far as quotas on exports of crude petroleum are concerned from Alberta?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I did not answer the previous question because I thought it was a speech, but may I say to the hon. member that I gave the results of my conversations with the United States authorities yesterday in discussing the President's proclamation. If the hon. member would read the answer I gave yesterday I think it would answer his question.

(Translation):

SUGAR

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON INQUIRY INTO PRICE INCREASES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Marcel Lessard (Lake St. John): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Minister of Justice. Can the minister inform the house of the developments which may have taken place following his investigation into the sugar price increase?

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, it is neither the practice nor the custom of the house to make public the negotiations under way respecting the question the hon. member has just asked. On the other hand, when a decision has been made, through charges, or when a conclusion has been reached through a report, the minister has the responsibility, under the act, to table that report in the house.

(Text):

REQUEST FOR PROMOTION OF GREATER DOMESTIC PRODUCTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. H. A. Thomas (Middlesex West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question to direct to the Minister of Agriculture. As he is going to be away, I think the matter is of sufficient importance that it should be dealt with at once.

In view of the need for more employment opportunities in Canada and the necessity for conserving foreign exchange, and in view of the present buoyancy in the sugar market, will the minister give consideration to promoting increased domestic production of sugar by readjusting the basis of price supports, as requested by the Canadian beet growers association and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture?

Hon. Harry W. Hays (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for Middlesex West for giving me notice of this question. The government has not considered any change in the support program for sugar beets for the current year which was announced on March 7. Under present circumstances the market price for sugar should result in returns to growers considerably above the support level.

NATIONAL PARKS

LONG POINT ISLAND, LAKE ERIE—INQUIRY AS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF PARK

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the minister of northern affairs, or in his absence to his parliamentary secretary. Is it the intention of the government to acquire land presently owned by the Long Point Company on Long Point island in lake Erie for a national park?

Mr. Speaker: This is also the sort of question which should be on the order paper.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF RUN-THROUGH PROGRAM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct one question to two ministers. The ministers concerned are the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Labour. Is the government aware of the dispute which is looming because of the intention of the C.N.R. to extend its run-through program, particularly in western Canada, on August 18? Will the government use its good offices to avoid such a dispute,