

Inquiries of the Ministry

that the usual gestation period for ideas to help western Canada with this government is at least two years?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of considerations to be taken into account. One is in response to the request of farmers from western Canada, and indeed occasionally from members across the way, that we should finalize the regulations and administrative details with respect to operation LIFT so that farmers can make plans dependent upon those regulations.

Mr. Baldwin: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, no farmers in the opposition have requested the continuation of this program.

Mr. Hees: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker, regarding the Post Office.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Yorkton-Melville has a supplementary to this question.

WHEAT—ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM—REINSTATEMENT OF UNIT QUOTA SYSTEM

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): In view of the difficulties facing many small farmers in regard to operation LIFT, will the government give consideration to reinstating the unit quota system?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am not responsible for that particular aspect but the Minister without Portfolio from Saskatoon-Humboldt has given many explanations of the reasons for removing the quota system and I believe the reasons are still valid.

INDUSTRY

TEXTILES AND SYNTHETIC FIBRES—PROTECTION AGAINST UNFAIR COMPETITION

Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. When will the minister be making a statement which will result in action to protect the textile and synthetic fibre industries of Canada from unfair dumping and unreasonable competition from Oriental countries?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, last week I said "soon"; today I will say "in the near future".

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[Later:]

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Since the Premier of Saskatchewan has entered the Quebec election campaign by his recent announcement that Quebec entrepreneurs have been making inquiries in Saskatchewan, can the minister state whether his department has been inundated by requests from Quebec-based firms to locate in Saskatchewan?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question is not in order.

[Translation]

FINANCE

FEDERAL TAXES AND PAYMENTS TO QUEBEC
—PUBLICATION OF FIGURES

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

On television last night, we heard a serious charge made by the leader of the National Union to the effect that a certain propaganda sheet distributed in Quebec has apparently been paid for directly from federal public funds. Would the Prime Minister confirm or deny this news?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity of commenting on a similar charge made by the leader of the National Union and I replied that the publication "What's New" had no connection whatsoever with the federal government and that it had been issued by the Quebec branch of the Liberal Federation of Canada.

[English]

TARIFF ADJUSTMENTS TO OFFSET FOREIGN
COMPETITION WITH CERTAIN INDUSTRIES

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Will the government give serious reconsideration to its tariff policies applying to the importation of footwear, textiles and electrical goods, particularly those which come from Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and other low wage countries whose wages make it impossible for Canadian industries to compete and are thus causing very serious lay-offs by these industries?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Well, Mr. Speaker, if my hon. friend would spend more time in the House he would find