

meet with the leaders to see if we can arrive at some appropriate arrangement, and later the whips might confer to see if they can carry out any plan that may be agreed upon.

VEGETABLES

STATEMENT WITH RESPECT TO IMPORTATION BY AIR FROM THE UNITED STATES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. DOUGLAS ABBOTT (Minister of Finance): Yesterday in my unavoidable absence the hon. member for Regina City (Mr. Probe) asked whether I was aware that certain fresh vegetables now banned from import to Canada from the United States were being flown into Canada daily from California by commercial aircraft and, if so, would I explain to the house why those vegetables were being permitted entry when ordinary bulk vegetables such as lettuce and celery were barred from import into Canada.

I am familiar with the situation, which is as follows. Fresh vegetables in their natural state have been placed on the prohibited list, of course with the exception of cabbage, carrots, potatoes and onions, under tariff item 87, which reads, "vegetables, fresh, in their natural state". Vegetables, fresh, in other than their natural state, that is to say cut up in any way, are classified under tariff item 711, and are permitted entry without permit. I have been informed that importers are now taking advantage of this tariff item and are importing in growing volume salad greens, that is vegetables cut or shredded, consisting of almost every variety of vegetables, as of course they are entitled to do. In order to maintain the ban on the importation of fresh vegetable salads I am recommending that order in council P.C. 4678 and Bill No. 3 be amended to include in the prohibited list cut or shredded vegetables classified under tariff item 711.

LOANS TO OTHER COUNTRIES

INQUIRY AS TO AMOUNTS NOT REPAYED

On the orders of the day:

Hon. DOUGLAS ABBOTT (Minister of Finance): The other day the hon. member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton) asked a question about the repayment of certain Canadian loans and credits to foreign countries, and I apologize for not having answered the question before today. The situation is that all these loans are made under contracts, the terms of which call for repayment; and as Minister of Finance of course I expect that those contracts will be fulfilled. It is obvious

to anyone, I suppose, that there are risks involved in loans of this kind, and one would be showing a false sense of optimism if one expected there would be no losses before these loans were repaid. Members of the house will recall that we have set aside some \$25,000,000 each year out of current revenue to build up a reserve against assets of this kind, and of course that reserve is available.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): The Minister of Agriculture does not agree with you, does he?

Mr. FULTON: May I ask the Minister of Finance a supplementary question arising out of the statement he has just made? In view of the statement made by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) on February 27 that everyone in the house knows that a "considerable part" of the loan is "never going to be paid back", I should like to ask the Minister of Finance if he would be willing to let us have a further statement which would better reconcile the statements of the two ministers.

Mr. ABBOTT: I do not know that I have anything to add to what I said a minute ago.

REPORTS AND PAPERS

Hon. HUMPHREY MITCHELL (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table P.C. 637—

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Louder.

Mr. MITCHELL: It is enough to have one loud-voiced person in the house. I wish to table P.C. 637 and P.C. 804, orders in council dealing with the Japanese in Canada.

UNITED NATIONS

TEMPORARY COMMISSION ON KOREA—ACTION OF CANADIAN DELEGATE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Peel): Mr. Speaker, has the Secretary of State for External Affairs any further information to convey to the house with respect to our position concerning the interim commission on Korea? When I asked the question earlier in the week he could not give full information; perhaps he could do so now.

Right Hon. J. S. ST. LAURENT (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I am not yet in receipt of full information, although additional information was obtained by telephone communication with Canada's representative, Doctor Patterson. That is to be followed up by a dispatch which has not yet come to my