

*Inquiries of the Ministry*PRODUCTION AND RECEIPTS POLICY—INQUIRY AS TO
STATEMENT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister in charge of the Wheat Board whether, after the consultations are completed as referred to by the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar and the government has reached a decision, the minister will be in a position to make a statement on motions before the Christmas recess outlining the final program position of the government in respect of the grains policy proposal?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I do not expect it will be possible to do that before the Christmas recess.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

NEGOTIATIONS FOR RELEASE OF JAMES CROSS
BY KIDNAPPERS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he is now in a position to give any further information concerning Mr. Cross in view of the news reports that have been issued in this regard? I do not wish to press for any disclosure the Prime Minister might consider improper, but is there any further information he can give the House now?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Of course I have not left the House since I last answered the question and I have no further information, although I too am receiving press reports to the effect that a car is on the way to St. Helen's Island. I have no information at this moment as to who is in the car.

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[Translation]

UNITED NATIONS

PRESENCE OF AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS ON CANADIAN
DELEGATION

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): In the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, I should like to put my question to his Parliamentary Secretary.

Considering the significant Canadian contribution to the food program in under-developed countries, through the United Nations, could the Parliamentary Secretary tell us whether there are some agronomists in the Canadian mission to the United Nations?

Mr. André Ouellet (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian delegation to the United Nations is quite capably headed by the Ambassador Yvon Beaulne and in addition to the permanent staff which is assisting him, the government sends each year a certain number of experts who take part in the proceedings of the United Nations committees. However, the Canadian International Development Agency regularly uses the services of agronomists and farm experts.

[Mr. Lang.]

[English]

COMBINES

SUGGESTED INVESTIGATION OF SO-CALLED PRICE WAR
AMONG GROCERY CHAINS

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs arising out of a question I asked about a week ago concerning the alleged price discount war among the major grocery chains of the country. Further to the question I asked on that occasion, has the minister requested members of his department to look into what might appear to be a fraudulent advertising campaign advising people that prices are being cut when in some cases they appear to be increasing? Has the minister requested officials of the Combines Investigation Branch of his department to look into this price war to ascertain if any pricing agreements or arrangements are being made among these major grocery chains?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, my officials have been instructed for quite some time to make sure that the Combines Investigation Act is observed.

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[Translation]

HEALTH

QUEBEC—MEASURES TO ASSURE REASONABLE LEVEL
OF MEDICAL SERVICES

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the hon. Minister of National Health and Welfare.

As no agreement has yet been entered into between the government of the province of Quebec and the medical specialists, could the minister tell us what measures he intends taking to ensure decent health service standards?

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe will admit with me that his question is of a rather general nature. It seems to me that the minister can only answer such an important question by way of a statement on motions unless he is in a position to reply to it briefly and quickly.

[English]

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I think I can explain briefly that the discussions I have had with my counterpart in the province of Quebec have indicated to me that health standards are not going to be prejudiced at all and that there is nothing in their legislation which is contrary to medicare.

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IMMIGRATION

ENTRY OF SUBVERSIVES FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In light of what may be