

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Trudeau:** Why don't you look at the Canada Year Book?

**Mr. Munro:** Mr. Speaker, I would have thought the hon. member was aware of the provinces that make up the Maritimes. In the memorandum there is reference to the Maritimes mortality rate. In other words, it takes the totality of the mortality rate in the Maritime provinces.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the right hon. member have a supplementary question?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** No, Mr. Speaker, it is a new matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** I suggest to hon. members that we might return to this very important subject later in the question period. The hon. member for Shefford.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair has recognized the hon. member for Shefford.

[Translation]

**FAMILY ALLOWANCES**

## DISCUSSION RESPECTING TRANSFER TO PROVINCES

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister a question about children.

Can he tell us if, during the federal-provincial conference next week, the government intends to start a debate with the spokesmen of the provinces that want to take over the administration of the federal family allowances program?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the only thing about children in this question is that I find it somewhat childish.

[English]

**TRADE**

## POSSIBLE BRITISH ENTRY INTO ECM—SAFE-GUARDING OF CANADIAN INTERESTS

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Apparently negotiations are now recommencing on the part of Great Britain for entry into the European Common Market. Have any representa-

tions been made by the government of Canada or any departments thereof to the Wilson government to the effect that, while admitting that Britain and other members of the Commonwealth have the right to go their own way, no serious detrimental effects to other members of the Commonwealth should be condoned? With the admission of Great Britain to the European Common Market, will Canada, Australia and New Zealand be reasonably protected by assurance of the British government against a serious diminution in the amount of their exports of agricultural and other products to the United Kingdom?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, admitting that each of the two potential partners, the United Kingdom and the EEC has a right to go its own way, discussions have been held for a long time between Canada and the U.K. on this matter, especially since the latest application of the U.K. dated May, 1967. Detailed information has been given to the U.K. government on the effects the adoption of the common external tariff and the common agricultural policy of the ECM would have on Canadian trade with the United Kingdom. The British government has assured us of their readiness to keep us informed as developments occur in the present round of negotiations. We expect that the U.K. and the ECM, both important trading partners of Canada, will take Canada's interests into account. As a matter of fact, we hope that the entry of the U.K. will mark a further liberalization of EEC policies, especially with respect to agricultural products and non-tariff barriers.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Will the minister now answer the question whether or not the United Kingdom has given any assurance similar to the assurance given by the MacMillan government in 1960 and 1961 that if Great Britain entered the European Common Market Canada's wheat exports, as well as agricultural exports from other parts of the Commonwealth, would be, as far as possible, protected and assured before entry into the European Common Market would be acceptable to the United Kingdom?

**Mr. Pepin:** That could be, in my view, a denial of the postulate accepted by the hon. member, which is the right of England to "go its own way." However, I would think that in their own interests, the U.K. would be mindful of our interests.