

Inquiries of the Ministry

Bay project and possible agreements between the federal and provincial governments, could the minister advise the House of the gist of these discussions? If both governments have reached an agreement, can he tell us something about it?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, we have had an excellent meeting with the Quebec premier; we have agreed to continue to explore the possible ways of solving the problem. However, we are not in a position to make concrete proposals at this time, because we shall have to hold talks with the Indians of the province of Quebec. Some weeks and even months may elapse before we can announce concrete proposals.

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[English]

URBAN AFFAIRS**TRI-LEVEL CONFERENCE—EFFECT OF QUEBEC
SELECTING MUNICIPAL DELEGATES**

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of Premier Bourassa's decision to have his government choose the two Quebec municipal delegates to the tri-level urban conference and the resulting impairment of the conference's purpose, will the minister now state whether the effect will be to reduce the conference to a two-level conference?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the method of choosing municipal representatives was set out in the report in which I understand the province of Quebec concurred.

Mr. Ryan: Mr. Speaker, is the minister content that the provincially picked delegates from Quebec will act—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question is clearly out of order.

Mr. Ryan: May I rephrase the question?

Mr. Speaker: Would the member resume his seat. The hon. member is inviting the minister to indicate whether he is content, satisfied, pleased or happy with something. That is not a proper question. The question should be asked directly.

Mr. Ryan: The premier is reported to have said that these delegates will act only as advisers to the Quebec government at the conference. Does this statement come within the guidelines to which the minister has just referred?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I think this is a matter for consultation between the province of Quebec and the municipalities concerned. I am quite sure we will have a successful conference.

[Mr. La Salle.]

CONSUMER AFFAIRS**FOOD PRICES AND SUPERMARKET PROFITS—REQUEST
FOR INVESTIGATION BY SPECIAL COMMITTEE**

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the increase in the cost of food by 7½ per cent between April 1971, and April 1972, and the simultaneous increase in the profits of food companies, Dominion Stores 300 per cent, and Weston's nearly 50 per cent—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that the hon. member is making a speech. The purpose of the question period is for hon. members to seek information, not to convey information to the House. The hon. member should ask his question.

Mr. Nystrom: In light of these two facts, will the minister refer this important issue to a special committee of the House for investigation?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would not be empowered to do so. I might advise the hon. member that this same question was asked by two members of his party previously, and I do not think my answer has since changed.

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, will the minister make a statement on motions some time this week informing us of the action he is taking on this important issue?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I would refer the hon. member to the answer I gave, which I think is clearly printed in *Hansard*.

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AGRICULTURE**EGGS—FINANCIAL SITUATION OF ONTARIO
PRODUCERS—INQUIRY AS TO STATEMENT**

Mr. Murray McBride (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the continued difficulties in the egg producing industry and the desperate financial straits in which Ontario egg producers in particular find themselves, will the minister be in a position soon to make a statement in the House indicating what the future will be for egg producers in Ontario?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, discussions took place in Ottawa almost all of last week among producer organizations from across the country. As a result they have come to a tentative agreement. Meetings are starting today and telecommunications with the provincial representatives, including the provincial ministers, which hopefully will result in an agreement some time later today. If necessary, we will call a wider meeting of provincial ministers because we want to resolve this problem as quickly as possible.