

if it amounts to what some people are suggesting could happen in the prairie provinces. We are concerned about making sure that production is not impeded in any way by such things as grasshoppers, politicians or anything else.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I am glad the minister included politicians because when he was in Saskatchewan recently he fully qualified as one politician interfering with my possibilities.

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact certain chemicals formerly used for grasshopper control have been banned, can he now assure the House there will be sufficient supplies of effective chemicals that can be used in this war against grasshoppers?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the different sprays that have been banned and the dangers of using some of them because of the effect on crops, the animal population and byproducts of the animal population. I am told that we do have effective sprays, and that is what I had in mind in answering the right hon. member for Prince Albert. I can only go on what my officials tell me, but if hon. members from western Canada have suggestions on what we should be doing I would be glad to hear them.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SOUTH AFRICA—REASON COMMONWEALTH TARIFF PREFERENCE NOT WITHDRAWN BY CANADA

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the fact South Africa has been expelled from the Commonwealth of Nations for some time now, would the Prime Minister tell the House why no plans were ever formulated by his government to withdraw Commonwealth preferential tariff treatment from that country?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will take notice of the question.

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[Translation]

TOURISM

ALLEGED BAD IMAGE OF CANADA IN EUROPE— POSSIBILITY OF CONVENING FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Is he aware of the discussions held at the last congress of the Canadian Association of Travel Agents during which many people dealing with tourism in Canada complained about the unfavourable image of our country in Europe and the rest of the world? If so, can he tell the

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House if he intends calling a federal-provincial conference on tourism problems in Canada and, especially, in the beautiful province of Quebec?

[English]

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I have already met with the provincial ministers of industry and tourism to discuss joint provincial-federal plans for the development of the tourist industry. I think all members would be most encouraged by the optimism of the provinces and all those associated with the tourist industry. We should be facing a big year.

• (1130)

[Translation]

Mr. Allard: Mr. Speaker, on a supplementary.

In view of the answer given by the minister, can he tell us if he will launch in his department a study of the problems which were pointed out at the congress by the representatives of the Canadian tourist industry and could he inform the House of the results of this study before the end of this session?

[English]

Mr. Gillespie: We are, of course, examining all proposals and suggestions from those in the tourist industry for the improvement of the industry. If there are any particular proposals the hon. member would like to make to me or to my department in that respect, I would be very glad to have them. In that connection, the estimates of my department were before the standing committee this morning, particularly those in respect of tourism, and I think that record might be of interest to hon. members.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

TORONTO—WITHHOLDING OF BENEFITS FROM CERTAIN ITALIANS—REQUEST THAT MINISTER INTERVENE

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration who is responsible for the Unemployment Insurance Commission. It concerns a situation in the city of Toronto. It is reported from a high official of the commission that some 70 Italians have been deprived of benefits to which they are entitled and that even after two or three representations no action has been taken. Will the minister intervene in this matter in order to see that these benefits are paid and that any orders of disentanglement or that would relieve them of this money are rescinded so they can be brought back in good standing?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, there has been some investigation of the complaints, but I intend to examine the record myself and make a decision on it.