

## FINANCE

## REQUEST FOR EASIER CREDIT TO ENCOURAGE INCREASED PRODUCTION

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. George Hees (Northumberland):** I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the sharp increase in unemployment during the past year and the obvious need for increased production to take up the slack, will the minister give consideration to making credit more easily available to producers so they can increase production and thus provide more employment opportunities?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance):** I am sure the hon. gentleman has heard of the very considerable easing in capital markets which has taken place in the last few weeks. For example, there has been a drop in the yield on treasury bills from a high of nearly 5.20 to present levels of nearly 4.30 per cent.

**Mr. Hees:** Does the minister consider that the steps which have been taken are sufficient to take up the slack in employment which has become evident in the last 12 months?

**Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern):** I have a related question for the Minister of Finance. Has the minister received any representations from building contractors or labour organizations drawing attention to the serious decline in employment and construction plans in the Toronto area and the St. Lawrence basin?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Herridge:** I rise on a question of privilege. Apparently the microphone is not working and we have no opportunity to hear your words of wisdom, Mr. Speaker.

**An hon. Member:** He said "Sit down".

[Translation]

## AGRICULTURE

## DISCUSSIONS RESPECTING MILK PRODUCERS OF QUEBEC AND ONTARIO

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to one of the ministers who understands the farm people best, namely the Minister of Agriculture who also makes a deep impression each time he appears in public.

Here is my question: Has the minister had talks recently with the ministers of

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

agriculture of Ontario and Quebec to establish what steps can be taken to satisfy the Canadian dairy producers?

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture):** Talks were held, Mr. Speaker, but not over the last few days.

**Mr. Patrick-T. Asselin (Richmond-Wolfe):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Agriculture. Can he give the house an indication of the date on which he will announce the new dairy policy which, I think, provides for an increase.

**Mr. Speaker:** A question identical to that has already been asked by the hon. member.

**Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to an inquiry made some time ago, with regard to the government's dairy policy.

Since the authorities of the Quebec Catholic Farmers Union are supposed to meet federal members in their respective ridings during the coming weekend, my question is as follows—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Would the hon. member please put his question?

**Mr. Grégoire:** Under those circumstances, Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture whether he intends to announce this new dairy policy before the weekend.

[English]

[Later:]

**Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce):** Mr. Speaker, I have not yet received a reply to a question I asked the other day when the Minister of Agriculture was not in the house. May we expect a new dairy policy to be announced before the end of the month?

## COAL

## REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAPAN

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Lawrence E. Kindt (MacLeod):** I understand, Mr. Speaker, that the negotiations which for some time have been taking place between Japanese officials and representatives of the coal industry of western Canada are somewhere near consummation, if they have not already been concluded. I would ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources