

Oral Questions

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—PROVINCIAL COMMITMENT TO GUIDELINES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister who I am sure is kept fully informed on this subject. It concerns the attitude of the provincial representatives to the government's anti-inflation program and the indications for support or commitment that those representatives have made today. Can the Prime Minister tell the House that all of the provinces are now committed either to allowing the federal government to implement the guidelines in their province in the area of provincial jurisdiction, or that they have given the assurance that they themselves will enforce the federal guidelines within their jurisdiction?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Leader of the Opposition realizes that the meetings began this morning and they are still going on. They may last until late today, and until they are finished I cannot, of course, give the conclusions reached by the meeting.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I did not ask for the conclusions of the meeting. Since reports were going out over the news on the attitude of the provinces, I thought that the information might have reached the Prime Minister.

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AGRICULTURE

REASON FOR FAILURE OF DR. HOPPER TO BE ELECTED HEAD OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. I am glad to see him back from the Food and Agriculture Organization conference in Rome. Can he enlighten the House on the reason that Canada's candidate, Dr. Hopper, was not elected head of the Food and Agriculture Organization having regard to the fact that Dr. Hopper visited 30 countries to enlist support and that all over the world Canadian embassies and ministers endeavoured to secure support for him for this position?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am aware that he visited 30 countries, and I wish we could all do as well politically; he received 28 votes out of the 30 countries he visited. I would say he entered the campaign to be director of FAO late. I think he was highly qualified and would have done a good job if elected. I think that had FAO followed the true democratic form of elections to which the right honourable gentleman and I are used in Canada, where we vote down to the finishing line and that sort of thing, the result might have been different.

I suggested that Dr. Hopper stay right to the finish line, but he withdrew on his own after the result of the first ballot was known, when the man who is now director of FAO, whom we wish the very best and offer him our utmost co-operation, polled 62 votes. I think that FAO has

[Mr. Whelan.]

become very politicized, and I also expressed concern about this at the conference.

Mr. Diefenbaker: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to have the minister's views on elections, but I am wondering whether the Canadian Press also produced a trashy article when it said that the reason that Canada was turned down was that it is difficult to defeat an Arab, and that anyway Canada was too inexperienced in this kind of lobbying. Is that the reason, and would the minister at the same time inform the House whether the various countries that apparently worked for support of the resolution concerning Israel and racism also ganged up on Canada?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I am not prepared to say that they did that, but I will say once again that if we had been running the election I am sure we would have run it in a different form. As far as I am concerned, the people running the election for the Canadian candidate were not experienced politicians; they were mostly civil servants.

Mr. Diefenbaker: A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The minister is an experienced politician and I should like to know what was wrong with the electioneering that was done which did not meet the approbation of the minister, who is so qualified on the subject.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

ALLEGATION THAT STRAIN OF PEACEKEEPING ON PERSONNEL WILL BE MET BY CLOSING BASES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. In light of the fact that the chief of the defence staff said yesterday before a committee of the House that peacekeeping obligations of defence forces cause a strain that can only be removed by the addition of 1,500 men, and since the *Globe and Mail* has reported that it has been suggested that this problem might be met by the closing of some bases in Canada, can the minister confirm that, under the present situation surrounding the base at Summerside, that base will be immune from any such program at the present time?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I have not seen a transcript of the statement of the chief of the defence staff before the standing committee, but I am quite certain that our peacekeeping obligations are such that they do not involve our having to close bases in Canada, whether Summerside or any other base. If there is any infrastructure consolidation it will result from other causes than our peacekeeping obligations.