

*Inquiries of the Ministry***FORESTRY****FEDERAL PARTICIPATION IN STUDY OF
FIRE PREVENTION METHODS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development. In view of the serious loss of timber, scenic and recreational values caused by forest fires in British Columbia this year, has the minister received any request from the government of British Columbia for a joint federal-provincial study of new techniques to deal more efficiently with Canada's most persistent form of natural disaster, the forest fire?

Hon. Maurice Sauvé (Minister of Forestry and Rural Development): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for having sent me notice of his question. So far we have received no official request.

Mr. Herridge: As a supplementary question, will the minister consider sending a representative of his department to attend the seminar called by the mayor of Trail, B.C., for some time in November, to discuss forest fire fighting methods, to which representatives of the provincial government and the governors of Washington and Idaho have been invited?

Mr. Sauvé: I will do this with pleasure, Mr. Speaker, if we are invited.

[Translation]

RURAL DEVELOPMENT ARDA**PROMOTION OF SECONDARY INDUSTRY
IN NORTHWESTERN QUEBEC**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the minister responsible for ARDA, the hon. Minister of Forestry and Rural Development.

Has the minister received representations concerning assistance from ARDA in setting secondary industries in northwestern Quebec?

Hon. Maurice Sauvé (Minister of Forestry and Rural Development): Not as far as I know, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Caouette: I should like to ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Supposing the people in northwestern Quebec were to ask for assistance from ARDA, would the Industrial Development Bank co-operate with the minister?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question is hypothetical.

[Mr. Pearson.]

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**PROPOSED VISIT BY FRENCH
AGRICULTURE MINISTER**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In the light of newspaper reports on the subject could he tell us whether when the French minister of agriculture, Edgar Faure, arrives in Canada he will be conferring with him on such mutual problems as farm prices and the handling of farmers' demonstrations?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): I regret to inform the hon. member that Mr. Faure's visit, due to circumstances beyond his control, has been cancelled.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**REQUEST FOR INQUIRY INTO INCREASED
FOOD PRICES**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Prime Minister. Would the government look into the causes which led to the 4½ per cent increase in the cost of food during the past two months, as a preliminary step to stemming the rapid rise in the cost of living?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest to the hon. member that this is a very general question and cannot be asked at this time.

[Translation]

TRADE**TEXTILES—SUGGESTED RESTRICTION ON
IMPORTS FROM JAPAN**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Maurice Allard (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the hon. Minister of Finance and Receiver General.

In view of the fact that the sales of Canadian textiles have fallen off for the first time in five years while inventories have doubled, does the government intend in the near future to invite officially the Japanese government to restrict its exportations of fibres to Canada?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the government has already invited the Japanese government to do that. When I was in Rio I had the opportunity of