

Inquiries of the Ministry

Minister of National Defence. Could the minister explain why Canadian forces recruiting teams are using hotel accommodation for recruiting purposes at needless cost in areas where there are government armouries with recruiting offices specifically allocated for that purpose?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question should be placed on the order paper.

FARM MACHINERY

REQUEST FOR REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address this question to the Minister of Agriculture. Could the minister advise the house when he expects to table the report of the commission studying the cost of farm machinery?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): I cannot give an indication of when we intend to table the report in the house. I can advise the hon. member that I have asked Dr. Barber for an interim report to be available before the end of this year which would be used as one of the position papers in respect of one of the subjects to be discussed at the national agricultural conference in March.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

MEDICARE—PROVINCIAL PLANS WITH UTILIZATION FEES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the minister's statement that the experience in Saskatchewan illustrates that medicare is absolutely necessary, does this mean that provincial medicare plans with utilization fees are now acceptable to the federal government?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is asking for a statement, and I would think the question is argumentative. If I am wrong on all counts, the question might be placed on the order paper.

FINANCE

STEPS TO BRING ABOUT INTERNATIONAL MONETARY REFORM

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance [Mr. Marshall.]

concerning international monetary arrangements in view of the uncertainty concerning the health of the arrangements as they now stand. Is the government of Canada putting forward any suggestions regarding further reform of the system relating to international currencies?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Representatives of the government of Canada have been and are constantly in touch with representatives of the Group of Ten concerning matters such as this.

Mr. Stanfield: But is the government of Canada taking any position, for example, with regard to the question of the fixed parity exchange? Is the government of Canada putting forward any position or is it simply engaging in consultations?

Mr. Benson: The government of Canada is in no way considering a floating exchange rate.

PROCEDURE

MOTION FOR CONCURRENCE IN FOURTH REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

The house resumed, from Tuesday, December 10, consideration of the motion of Mr. Blair that the fourth report of the special committee on procedure of the house, presented to the house on Friday, December 6, 1968, be concurred in, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Stanfield, (p. 3762).

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, at ten o'clock last evening I was putting before the house some information with regard to the business of the house in this session and particularly in the coming part of the session. I mentioned that because of the slow progress on the legislative program of this session, a slowness produced by an inability to obtain effective agreement from the opposition on time for the measures needed this autumn, the house is now faced with some 40 bills, many of them of a very fundamental character, with about 80 days for legislative business between the resumption of the sittings in January and the end of June.

Last night the Prime Minister mentioned the closure of neglect and the closure of exclusion. I think it is fair to raise the question, is this what the opposition has in store for much of the legislative program of this year and, cumulatively, for the years to come? From these figures, 40 bills and 80 days, it must be clear that a very difficult problem