

*Inquiries of the Ministry***LIVESTOCK****REQUEST FOR STEPS TO ASSURE ADEQUATE FEED SUPPLIES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. M. Benidickson (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, we have all noted that the minister of agriculture for Manitoba has had recent conversations with the federal Minister of Agriculture due to the emergency drought conditions in that area. I was wondering if the minister had any statement to make, and whether or not the conversations involved the possibility of importing fodder from the United States.

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the minister of agriculture for Manitoba, Hon. Errick Willis, was here yesterday and the day before. I had two or three conversations with him in connection with the drought situation in Manitoba, which I am glad to tell the house is now much less serious than it was about a week ago because of the rains that started there last Thursday which have now considerably lessened the possibility of a serious feed shortage in southern Manitoba. I might say that the minister of agriculture for Saskatchewan is here today. We had a long conference this morning and we will have another this afternoon. At these meetings with the provincial ministers of agriculture we have been canvassing the situation fairly thoroughly as to what the needs are likely to be and how those needs can best be met. As the Prime Minister indicated, I will have a statement to make to the house in that connection in due course.

PRIVILEGE**MR. MCINTOSH—REFERENCE TO REPORTED REMARKS BY C.C.F. LEADER**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. May I at this time ask the leader of the C.C.F. group a question relating to a report that appeared in a prairie newspaper?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. McIntosh: I believe it concerns the whole house.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member can only ask a question of another member relating to a matter before the house under that member's responsibility. If it is a question of privilege and the hon. member will state it, the house will deal with it.

Mr. McIntosh: I am referring to a report which appeared in the *Regina Leader-Post* of June 30, and I would ask the leader of the

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

C.C.F. group whether he was misquoted or whether he actually made this statement.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member could state his question of privilege first and then we will be able to see how far he will need to go to elaborate it. Is it a question of privilege affecting the hon. member himself?

Mr. McIntosh: It is a question of privilege. During a recent visit of the hon. member for Assiniboia to Saskatchewan he is reported to have said:

—he was glad to be away from the house to come back here and look "at some intelligent people."

The article continues:

Progressive Conservative candidates, no matter whether they were qualified or not, were elected. He admitted the P.C.'s had some able members in the house but there are "a lot I'm sure will take four years to learn where to hang their hats and coats."

I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, when members from Saskatchewan may reply to the hon. member for Assiniboia, or if the hon. member for Assiniboia will inform the house whether he actually made that statement. If he did I believe he owes an apology to the members of the house.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the hon. member is not looking for trouble. There was nothing in what he read which seemed to reflect in any way upon him. I think the hon. member for Assiniboia must have been referring to other members of the house.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**REPORTED STATEMENT BY MEMBER FOR VANCOUVER CENTRE ON CANADIAN DELEGATIONS TO RUSSIA**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Prime Minister would care to comment on the statement appearing in this morning's *Gazette* and attributed to the hon. member for Vancouver Centre, who is reported as having said in Paris yesterday that Canadian delegations visiting Russia are hand-picked, and while approved by the government are politically immature and naturally very biased.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): The answer is, first, that I have not seen the report, and the answer to the general question is no.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**GLACE BAY, N.S.—STATEMENT ON REPORTED REDUCTION IN STAFF**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. W. M. Hamilton (Posimaster General): Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the hon. member for Northumberland-Miramichi asked for