

coalition unless something is done to toughen up the powers of the Prices Review Board to propose that those powers be increased?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The question does not seem very supplementary to me, Mr. Speaker.

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INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Stan Schumacher (Palliser): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. In view of the fact that apparently only militia units were worthy of the Queen's inspection during Her Majesty's recent visit, will the hon. gentleman take steps to ensure that the uniforms of such units are not replaced by the drab, dull greens—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest to the hon. member that this question could be placed on the order paper.

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AGRICULTURE

SUGGESTED CONFERENCE WITH PROVINCES TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH FOOD PRODUCTION

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the absolute necessity to increase food production in Canada and the highly detrimental effects of rising farm costs as well as the scarcity of competent farm labour, would the minister call an emergency conference between his provincial counterparts, representatives of commodity groups, consumers and farm organizations in an attempt to resolve a critical problem which can soon become disastrous?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I met as late as the day before yesterday with my counterpart in Ontario. I have also discussed this question with the Minister of Labour and with the Minister of Manpower. I would point out to the hon. member that at the present time there is more offshore farm labour available in Canada than at any time in our history. I wish that some of the people who are unemployed would accept the challenge to work on some of these farms and help harvest the crops.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: Shame!

EGGS—EFFECT OF HIGH COST OF SOYBEAN MEAL—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Bill Frank (Middlesex): The minister told us he had been talking to his counterpart in the government of Ontario. Would he also consider contacting all interested parties to consider plans for temporary tariff protection for Canadian egg producers because of the great differential in the price of soybean meal between Canada and the

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United States, amounting to more than 250 per cent, as a result of the temporary U.S. embargo?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): We have received representations on this question. I have met with the National Farm Products Marketing Council. We have discussed this problem with the trade, and with our officials, and we shall discuss it further in Charlottetown on Tuesday, I hope. It is a situation which requires some attention but I do not consider it as being so urgent that immediate attention is required.

[Translation]

FEED GRAINS—ALLEGED ANNOUNCEMENT BY POSTMASTER GENERAL OF DATE OF NEW POLICY

Mr. Jean-Marie Boisvert (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Postmaster General.

Does the statement he made during the UPA convention held in Drummondville as to the announcement of the new policy respecting feed grains still hold?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is aware that, under our rules, he is not allowed to ask a minister questions about statements made outside the House. Maybe the hon. member will rephrase his question so as to make it in order.

Mr. Boisvert: Mr. Speaker, could the Postmaster General advise the House whether the government still intends to announce its new policy respecting feed grains before August 1?

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● (1150)

[English]

LABOUR RELATIONS

DISPUTE WITH NON-OPERATING RAILWAY EMPLOYEES—ACTION BY MINISTER TO HAVE NEGOTIATIONS RESUMED

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. In light of the announced intention of 57,000 non-operating rail employees to proceed with selective strikes next week, possibly as soon as Sunday, will the minister tell the House whether he is now going to personally act to get serious negotiations resumed, and if so, when?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I do not quite agree with the premise or the prelude to the hon. member's question as to when the strike is going to commence. From reports I have received, hopefully it will not commence nearly that soon. As far as what intervention we contemplate, I am certainly going to have mediation services offered by my department in an all-out effort to get these parties together. If that includes intervention by myself, I will certainly be prepared to do that.