

Inquiries of the Ministry

of Agriculture whether, during the conference which was held yesterday and the day before in connection with grain, the government of Canada received any assurance from the countries of the European Common Market that the subsidization of the export of wheat would be terminated?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): As was stated in the press communiqué issued yesterday, all the countries concerned gave somewhat detailed explanations of the measures they are taking to confine wheat production. The reason this meeting was held in camera was to enable a frank exchange of views to take place.

Mr. Stanfield: Since the minister has retreated behind a shroud of secrecy as far as the conference is concerned, may I ask whether the government of Canada has ever indicated to the countries of the European Common Market that if they continue to subsidize the export of wheat this country will consider retaliation?

Mr. Olson: No, Mr. Speaker. The representatives of the Canadian government never discuss things in that frame of mind.

Some hon. Members: Why not?

Mr. Olson: If the hon. gentleman would refer to paragraphs three and four of the communiqué he would, I think, find there a substantial part of the answer he is seeking.

Mr. Stanfield: I have it right here.

An hon. Member: It says nothing.

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Can the minister tell us whether the International Grains Arrangement was discussed and whether any progress was made in the direction of re-establishing agreed prices?

Mr. Olson: I regard this line of questioning as inappropriate. Hon. members know that the communiqué which was issued yesterday was agreed to by the participating parties, and as far as I am concerned it is complete.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. A. B. Douglas (Assiniboia): I should like to ask the minister when the next meeting of the International Grains Arrangement countries will be held in connection with pricing and other arrangements under the agreement?

Mr. Olson: I cannot answer that question.
[Mr. Stanfield.]

Mr. Gleave: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. If I heard the minister correctly he stated that the questions being asked were inappropriate. I point out to the Chair that in light of the existing conditions in western Canada and in light of the failure of the conference to achieve its objectives, the questions asked were very much in order.

Mr. Speaker: That is not a point of order. That is a point of debate.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**ASSISTANCE TO MONTREAL POLICE RESPECTING IMMIGRATION EXTORTION RACKET**

Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the honourable and amiable Solicitor General. In view of reports coming out of Montreal that the underworld in that city is working an extortion racket directed against illegal immigrants, can the Solicitor General say whether or not the federal government is giving all possible assistance to the Montreal police in bringing this situation under control?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): I have not heard those particular rumours but I can advise the hon. member that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police do extend all possible co-operation and assistance to the local police authorities who have primary responsibility for policing the city of Montreal, as well as to the provincial police.

FINANCE**RELIEF FOR OWNERS OF PERPETUAL BONDS**

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): I have a question for the Minister of Finance. It concerns Dominion of Canada perpetual bonds. In view of the fact that the interest rate on these bonds is so low, 3 per cent, and considering their ridiculous face value of \$40, would the minister not allow the owners to exchange them and buy new government bonds at adjusted interest rates?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hales: Would the minister give consideration to the owners of these bonds being allowed to use them at face value when paying succession duties?

Mr. Benson: No, Mr. Speaker.