

dence of price exploitation, would the minister consult with his colleague the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs with a view to a rollback in the price increase announced by the major farm implement companies last fall?

Mr. Olson: The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs is very well aware of the recommendations in the report, Mr. Speaker, and I have already had a number of discussions with him related to this matter.

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Agriculture. Will the minister give consideration to the establishment of a buying agency to carry on the purchasing of tractors and farm equipment from other countries? Also, is the government planning to conduct any further studies, possibly through the royal commission, with a view to the reduction of manufacturing costs in Canada on the basis of the experience of firms now producing tractors in this country?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, that is not one of the recommendations in the report, although perhaps it will be included in discussions of matters to be considered in order to remedy this unsatisfactory situation.

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question for the Minister of Agriculture. Is it the minister's intention to refer the Special Report on Prices of Tractors and Combines in Canada and Other Countries to the Standing Committee on Agriculture at an early date?

Mr. Olson: We could do that, Mr. Speaker. However, I believe that the Standing Committee on Agriculture has one matter referred by this House before it which will take up most of the time available between now and February 17. There is also a further question of grain marketing on the Order Paper which will have to be taken into consideration as well.

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Agriculture. In the minister's discussions in Czechoslovakia with manufacturers of farm machinery did he take the opportunity to point out to them the very evident savings they could make by shipping tractors to western Canada through the port of Churchill?

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for

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the Minister of Agriculture. Has he set a schedule for this interdepartmental study to be completed within the next two months, say, or does he intend to let it drag on as long as necessary?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, this study is not going to start in the next two months or so; it started several days ago.

Mr. Korchinski: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I do not think the minister understood my question. I want to know when it will be completed rather than when it commenced.

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is either possible or proper to attempt to predict with confidence, when commencing a task, when it will be completed.

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the removal by persons or persons unknown, of plates over serial numbers of tractors imported from England, would the minister say whether he would request his colleague the Solicitor General to have the RCMP investigate this cloak and dagger operation in order to determine the person or persons responsible?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, I think the police were informed of that some time ago.

Mr. Speaker: May I bring to the attention of hon. members that we have had quite a few supplementary questions on this subject and it might be in order to move on to another subject and return to hon. members before the end of the question period if there is time.

[*Translation*]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INFLATION—SUGGESTED MEETING OF PRIME MINISTER WITH NEW QUEBEC LIBERAL PARTY LEADER

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

In view of the fact that during the week-end the great economist Robert Bourassa was chosen as leader of the Quebec Liberal party, could the Prime Minister tell us whether he plans to meet this talented man to discuss with him the steps required to check inflation?

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Edmonton Centre.