

contract bids if a decision is not made before August 1? What rough percentage?

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, I obviously cannot pre-judge any cabinet decision. If we should have to go beyond August 2 and we have both competing manufacturers in the race, there will be no escalation in price.

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AGRICULTURE

SOUR CHERRIES—GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE MARKETING DIFFICULTIES—POSSIBILITY OF INCREASE IN PRICE OF EGGS

Mr. Wm. Andres (Lincoln): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact we have had some serious problems in marketing our sour cherry crop, what if anything is the minister doing with regard to marketing this crop? Further, is there any truth in the news media reports that there has been an increase in the price of eggs?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of speculation about the increase in the price of eggs, but no decision has been made under the new formula. I would report that Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec are still selling below cost of production. With regard to the cherries, we have a program to make sure that this crop does not go to waste. We hope the trade will purchase these. If not, we will purchase them to the tune of 11 million pounds maximum. We hope this will ensure that none of the crop will go to waste.

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[Translation]

COMMUNICATIONS

CABLEVISION—PROPOSED FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE ON GRANTING JURISDICTION TO PROVINCES

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister.

Since the Quebec Minister of Communications expresses the very decided view of the provincial government, which wants absolute control over cablevision, and since that issue is likely to cause disastrous constitutional unrest, is the Prime Minister considering reviewing the government's attitude on that matter or ordering in the near future a federal-provincial conference to determine the respective jurisdictions in that field?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I answered that question yesterday for the hon. member for Joliette. I told him I did not intend to convene a constitutional conference to turn over federal powers to provinces. I also said that Quebec's premier did not ask for such a constitutional conference.

As hon. members know, there is one question pertaining to this matter which is now in dispute and will end up in court. We may get a court ruling on the constitution from that court but it is the contention of the federal govern-

Oral Questions

ment—and I hope our view is shared by the Progressive Conservatives and the Social Credit Party of Canada—that the federal government has jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to broadcasting.

Mr. Matte: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask another supplementary question: first, I would like to suggest to the Prime Minister that he seems to place himself above the constitution, and I do not think jurisdictions can be determined as easily as that. In any event, would the Prime Minister tell the House whether or not he has received any communications from the premier of the province of Quebec on this matter, since the records are now in the hands of the Quebec premier, and whether or not he will, upon the premier's request, summon a constitutional conference?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I must remind the hon. member that the government did not place itself above the constitution. On the contrary, we have first proposed administrative arrangements for the last two years now that the Minister of Communications has been calling for those conferences. We have also pointed out there was a doubt as to the constitutionality of our bringing the case jointly to the Supreme Court. We did not place ourselves above the law. What we did say is: let the Supreme Court interpret the constitution. The province of Quebec did not accept either suggestion. As for the last of the question, the answer which I gave yesterday is still no. Premier Bourassa has not consulted me since he was handed over the records by Mr. l'Allier.

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● (1140)

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSED LICENSING OF ITALIAN FIRM TO CONSTRUCT CANDU REACTORS—ADEQUACY OF SAFEGUARDS

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister or to the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs regarding reports that the Canadian government is negotiating an agreement with a private firm in Italy for licensing the construction of CANDU reactors in that country? I want to ask the minister, first, whether this report is correct and, second, what safeguards will be imposed, in view of the fact that the private company is not a sovereign power but is subject to the policies of the country in which it is located and that it is not accountable in the way a government would be. What safeguards is the government proposing to put in place in the event that it grants this far-reaching power to manufacture CANDU reactors for export to other countries after a given period of time?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, a question of the same kind was directed to my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, either yesterday or the day before. He gave a fairly detailed answer, but I would have to study very carefully the question the hon. member has put