

AGRICULTURE

EGGS—INQUIRY AS TO GOVERNMENT ACTION RESPECTING IMPORTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern): I have a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In view of the marked increase in the import of eggs from other countries to Canada is the minister contemplating any inquiry into the situation?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I presume the hon. member is referring to the statistics shown in a return made a day or two ago which reflected a substantial net import of eggs into Canada. I was surprised at that, myself; I thought Canada was self-sufficient in this regard. I find that this is generally the case, but there were seasonal and other reasons for extraordinarily large imports last year. However, in relation to the total consumption of eggs in Canada the number imported was relatively small.

Mr. Nasserden: Does the minister not think that a 250 per cent increase is worthy of consideration?

Mr. Speaker: Order; the question is argumentative.

FLOODS

FRASER RIVER—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON POTENTIAL DANGER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Has the minister received a recent report on the current flood potential of the lower Fraser river in British Columbia, and is he satisfied with the standards of the diking arrangements in that area?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, snow survey reports in the first part of this month indicate heavy snow conditions in the Fraser river basin. Whether or not this may result in high floods on the river in June will depend on the weather conditions which are experienced prior to that time. High snow supplies have been known to dissipate without causing damaging flood conditions. On the other hand, a low snow supply under certain conditions can result in serious flooding. At the moment I am told by my experts that it is too early to forecast the degree of flooding

Inquiries of the Ministry

which may be experienced in the area in the early summer of 1967.

With respect to the second part of the question regarding diking conditions, I shall take it as notice and get further technical advice.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

INQUIRY AS TO CHANGE IN FORM OF ESTIMATES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Defence, based on a ruling Your Honour made earlier this day. Is it the intention of the minister to resubmit his estimates in their former or traditional form, and not on the assumption of unification?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated yesterday the form of the estimates is a reflection of the integrated commands which were authorized subsequent to the law passed by parliament in 1964. Particularly in view of the demand which has been made on the other side of the house during the last few weeks, that more precise information be given as to the roles and the missions of the Canadian Armed Forces, I would think that presenting the details of the estimates in a form which would give an accurate reflection of the expenditures being made for the various roles and missions would be welcomed by members on the other side of the house.

Mr. Diefenbaker: A completely false answer.

Mr. Hales: As a supplementary question, would the minister not then consider putting them forward in a manner that would enable us to compare them with former estimates of his department?

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

QUEBEC—REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN MILK PRICE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Florian Côté (Nicolet-Yamaska): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Has he received a request from the Catholic Farmers Union and some members of parliament to increase the price of milk to \$5.10 per hundredweight—which price I find quite logical—and, if so, what action does the government intend to take?