

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

An hon. Member: Sound.

## TRADE

**Mr. Winch:** My direct question is: Will the Treasury Board negotiating committee approach their next meeting with the attitude, "let's settle it now, because we shall have to settle it in the future, anyway"?

**Mr. Dury:** I wish I could enlist the support of the hon. member as part of the government's negotiating team. He has expressed forcibly the principle we have been trying to get across. I suggest that if he cannot be part of the team he might use whatever channels are open to him to convey those sentiments to those directly concerned.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[*Translation*]

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## LEBANON—POSITION OF GOVERNMENT ON INVASION BY ISRAELI FORCES

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the acting Prime Minister.

Is Canada about to protest strongly against Israel's scandalous attacks against Lebanon?

**Mr. Speaker:** It seems to me that this question was asked yesterday. I must admit that I do not remember whether an answer was given. At any rate, I will accept the question.

**Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker—**

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the honourable member wish to ask a supplementary question?

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, if the Minister answers my supplementary question in the same way as he did my first question, that is by rising and then sitting down again, one must admit that such an answer is not convincing.

As a follow-up to my first question, I wish to know whether Lebanon has asked Canada to intervene against the aggressors?

[*English*]

**Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General):** I believe not, Mr. Speaker. As to the first question, in view of the seriousness of its implications I think it had better be answered by the Secretary of State for External Affairs on his return to the House. I should prefer not to attempt to give an answer today.

22375—26

## REPORTED ENTRY OF AUSTRALIAN BEEF INTO UNITED STATES VIA CANADA—EFFECT ON CANADIAN EXPORTS

**Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River):** I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Speaker. It is based on reports that approximately one million pounds of Australian meat are presently entering the United States each week by way of Canada. Is the minister in a position to assure the House that this will in no way affect our own domestic beef exports to the U.S. market, either in quantity or price?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that the postulate on which the question is based is a correct one; I do not think it is. I believe that the United States government has a system to control the import into the United States through Canada of meat coming from Australia, and I just want to question the validity of that part of the question.

On the second point, I understand that this does not affect Canadian exports of meat to the United States in any way. I understand that different types of meat are involved. If the hon. member wants a more precise answer to the question, I will give it to him on Tuesday.

**Mr. Downey:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Are new regulations now being brought out by the United States to prevent Australian meat entering that country through Canada, or is this a program of long standing?

**Mr. Pepin:** Mr. Speaker, I think it is a program that has been implemented for a certain while.

[*Translation*]

## IMPORTATION OF BUTTER FROM NEW ZEALAND

**Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the hon. Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) a question.

Is he aware of the statement made in New Zealand by Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) to the effect that Canada intends to import butter from that country? Could he tell the House whether this policy is likely to affect the dairy industry in Canada?