

Inquiries of the Ministry

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stanfield: You would never do that.

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a supplementary question to the right hon. Prime Minister. Did he not prejudge the wishes of Parliament when he told Home Oil that they could not sell out and that, if they did, retroactive legislation would be enacted by Parliament?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That, of course, is argument.

REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF MONOPOLY CREATED
IN TORONTO NEWSPAPER FIELD

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Will the minister investigate the monopoly situation that apparently has been created in the Toronto newspaper field, particularly in view of the fact that his department investigated and is now prosecuting in a situation similar in the New Brunswick newspaper field?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not accept either hypothesis relative to Toronto or New Brunswick. I indicated at the time the announcement was made relative to Toronto that the Director of Investigation and Research under the Combines Act would conduct an inquiry in order to determine whether he had reason to believe the Combines Investigation Act was being violated.

Mr. Bell: Mr. Speaker, then may I take it from the minister's answer that a monopoly is all right in Toronto but not in New Brunswick?

Mr. Basford: No.

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AGRICULTURE

CORN—ACTION TO PREVENT DUMPING OF UNITED
STATES PRODUCT AND LOWERING OF CANADIAN PRICE

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that the price of corn in southern Ontario has now declined to \$1.09 a bushel and may in fact decline even more to 99 cents a bushel, and in view of the fact that this is mainly due to the dumping of American corn on the Canadian market at this time, would the minister consider preventing this dumping so that Ontario corn producers will get a fair price for their product?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, representations along these lines were made to me and to officials of my department several days ago and they are under active consideration at the moment.

[Mr. Basford.]

[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

ST. ROMUALD—USE OF GRANT TO GOLDEN EAGLE
COMPANY

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Last Friday, the minister was a guest of honour at the inauguration of the Golden Eagle refinery in St. Romuald. Following the ceremony, newspapers reported that the Department of Regional Economic Expansion had made a grant of five million dollars to the firm.

An hon. Member: Ten.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): May I ask the minister whether a portion of those five million dollars was allocated for the construction of the St. Romuald pier?

Mr. Speaker: I believe that question should normally be placed on the order paper. If it is urgent, as I believe might be the case, the matter could be dealt with at the time of adjournment.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member want to put a supplementary question?

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Bellechasse on a supplementary.

[Translation]

POLICY RESPECTING GRANTS

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): In view of the importance of the matter, I wish to ask the minister why in his capacity as representative of the federal government he has not been invited to elaborate on its policy governing subsidies to companies, even in Quebec?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, the incident at St. Romuald has nothing to do with a speech I may have made. However, the officials of the company have not mentioned the assistance from the Canadian government, which is of the order of \$10 million, and I found it improper for them not to thank the Canadian public for the assistance granted to them.

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[English]

HIGHWAYS

DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES AND BRITISH
COLUMBIA ON PAVING OF ALASKA HIGHWAY AND
BUILDING OF ROAD TO SKAGWAY

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I was waiting for the Minister of Public Works to return to the chamber but since he has not may I direct my question to the Prime