

Inquiries of the Ministry

Agriculture asking the federal government to compensate part of these losses?

[English]

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have already announced a specific program under the Agricultural Stabilization Board with regard to eggs and it has had a very beneficial effect in the market place even at this early date. I have also announced that as soon as the figures are available for the 1971 year we will probably be making deficiency payment on hogs, but we need to have the figures first.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): I should like to put a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

I realize perfectly that a policy has been established. My question does not concern the future program, but the year which is ending. Since this policy is inadequate, as has been demonstrated, would the Minister of Agriculture be prepared to consider this situation seriously in order to avoid the numerous failures which will necessarily happen in this field?

[English]

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, I do not understand the purport of this kind of question and representation because certainly if there is a deficiency payment after the figures are in for hogs it will be paid for hogs produced all through 1971 right back to January of this year.

• (2:40 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member could perhaps meet the minister after the question period and they might reach an agreement on a question which could be put tomorrow.

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[English]

INFORMATION

SUGGESTED LEGISLATION TO ASSURE FREEDOM OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON PUBLIC BUSINESS

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Justice a question. In light of the many leaks which have been plaguing the government, would he now consider introducing or will he introduce during the next session a freedom of information bill which would do a great deal to get rid of this problem? I would be prepared to offer him my bill which now stands on the order paper.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for the co-operation he gave me in introducing and passing the Statutory Instruments Act which goes a long step toward making regulations public and reviewable by Parliament. The other step he mentions is one which I will take under consideration.

[Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse).]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INDIA-PAKISTAN CONFLICT—GOVERNMENT POSITION RESPECTING POSSIBLE DISCUSSION BY UNITED NATIONS—ADVICE TO CANADIAN NATIONALS

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs on the grave situation involving India and Pakistan. Has the government departed from its view that it is still not efficacious to have the matter brought before the United Nations and can he advise what advice is being given to Canadian nationals in the area?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, on the first question, we have been discussing this with a number of countries including members of the Security Council and so far none of them feels it would be helpful in bringing about a settlement to have the matter brought before the Security Council at this time. That position may change with time but that seems to be the position now. On the second question, we have given warning to our nationals in both east and west Pakistan to get out of the areas where there are hostilities and also to be prepared to move out of that country if the situation worsens.

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• (2:40 p.m.)

THE MINISTRY

INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF NEW MINISTER OF ENERGY MINES AND RESOURCES

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): I should like to put my question to the Prime Minister. In light of the unfortunate illness of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources who has been unable to attend the House for some time, is it the Prime Minister's intention to appoint a minister to take over that portfolio because of the serious effect of the minister's absence on matters that affect Canada, particularly the relationship between Canada and the United States, and would that appointment be made before the discussions take place on whatever matters the Prime Minister is going to discuss with the President of the United States?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows that there are two acting ministers and in certain cases we have even named a third acting minister to meet this unfortunate situation.

Let me say once again that I do not know for certain the date of the meeting and therefore I cannot give the hon. member that assurance. I do not know sufficient at this time about the health and future condition of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to answer the other part of the hon. member's question, but certainly this matter is very much on my mind and I will act as soon as necessary.