

Inquiries of the Ministry

mentary: which member of his cabinet is he shielding and what is the reason for it?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not a proper question.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**USE OF SNOWMOBILES TO HUNT ANIMALS—POSSIBLE AMENDMENT TO CRIMINAL CODE**

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Bearing in mind the mean, despicable and unsportsmanlike actions of some snowmobilers who chase and kill animals from snowmobiles, would the hon. gentleman amend the Criminal Code to prohibit this cruel practice?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): I would have to ascertain whether the existing provisions of the Criminal Code are sufficient to substantiate that type of prosecution. I will take the question under consideration.

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AGRICULTURE**POSSIBLE NEED FOR INCREASED STAFF TO MAKE SUBSIDY PAYMENTS**

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. I should like to ask him whether his department will be acquiring extra help, or has it the use of a computer which makes it possible to make payments with respect to subsidies.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): I do not understand the purport of the question. If it is whether we need additional staff to operate computers, I do not think there is such a need.

Mr. Korchinski: We were told by the minister in the Committee on Agriculture that subsidies could not be paid because there was an administrative burden. I wonder how the department is getting around this difficulty.

[Later:]

Mr. Speaker: I believe the hon. member for Mackenzie is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Baldwin: There is something coming over from the States right now.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Obviously there is something wrong with the hon. member's microphone. Perhaps he could wait a moment while adjustments are being made. He will be recognized later, or perhaps he might, by leave of the House, move to another seat. Order, please. It might be useful if I were to suggest to hon. members that we proceed without the assistance of the microphones for a few moments and allow the hon. member to direct his question. If we are all peaceful and quiet we can hear the question and the answer can be heard also.

Mr. Korchinski: I have no difficulty there, Mr. Speaker. I should like to rephrase the question I put to the Minister of Agriculture a few moments ago, because he did not comprehend that I was referring to the payment of the butter subsidy. I am wondering whether he is employing extra staff, or whether his department has had the use of a computer in the last few years to calculate the amounts of money to be paid to these producers.

Mr. Olson: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Records of all producers are kept by a computer and we can draw this information from the computer tapes.

Mr. Korchinski: Bearing in mind the fact that some creameries have been closed, may I ask how the minister is able to cross-check to confirm that these creameries are closed?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest we are entering upon debate at this point.

Mr. Korchinski: What is wrong with that?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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COMMUNICATIONS**DANGER OF CONFIDENTIAL PERSONAL INFORMATION BEING STORED IN COMPUTERS IN UNITED STATES**

Mr. John Roberts (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Communications. Is my hon. friend considering action to deal with the rapidly accelerating take-over of credit agencies in Canada by United States firms and the consequent danger that personal and confidential information will be stored in the United States rather than in Canada?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of Communications): I have no mandate to deal with credit bureaux, but we are aware of the possibility of the transfer of personal information to computers and, particularly, to remote computers. We are studying the implications of this. I personally, would consider it a matter of concern if personal data on Canadians were transferred by Canadian companies to any foreign country.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**DISPOSITION OF FUNDS TO ASSIST EAST PAKISTANI REFUGEES IN INDIA**

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether he is in a position to reply to my question of yesterday concerning the state of our latest contribution to relief for Pakistani refugees?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker. I am not in a position to answer