

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Later:]

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Because of the characteristics of good will that typify all good Irishmen I should like to ask the minister does he intend announcing that there will be an increase of 67 cents per hundredweight for producers of manufacturing milk?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I believe on this day I should ask the minister not to reply to this question at this time.

[Translation]

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

QUEBEC—DISCUSSIONS RESPECTING JURISDICTION IN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heward Graffey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, following the statement made this week by Hon. Marcel Masse, minister in the Quebec government, about the powers of the province in the field of external affairs, I would like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Can the minister tell us if, in the spirit of co-operative federalism, he will in the near future initiate talks to settle the matter as quickly as possible?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not know that we have an obligation to initiate talks with a jurisdiction in this country for the only reason that, through the voice of a minister it deals with something which does not concern that provincial government, because there is no doubt that the federal government is solely responsible for the administration of our country's external affairs.

[English]

INCOME TAX

NON-PAYMENT BY HEAD OF QUEBEC SEPARATIST MOVEMENT

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. It is asked because of the number of income taxpayers, who have read the statement of Pierre Bourgault, head of the Ralliement pour l'Indépendance Nationale, who says he has not filed any income tax return since 1963, that he refuses to pay income tax, and the government is afraid to go ahead against him; that it has in no way asked him to pay

[Mr. Speaker.]

income tax since he told the government three years ago that he did not recognize the laws of Canada.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Since this is a matter, as indicated in the question of the right hon. Leader of the Opposition, which seems to have been extant for some years I am not sure whether it is in order now.

Mr. Diefenbaker: This is something which has just come out in the press. Canadian taxpayers want to know if there is one law for the separatists and another law for the rest of us.

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I wish to assure the right hon. gentleman that if the situation as outlined by him is correct, my department, which is not afraid to collect taxes, will make every effort to collect taxes from this individual as it would from every other Canadian. We treat all Canadians in the same way, whether they are separatists or not.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Then go ahead.

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): A supplementary question to the Minister of National Revenue. Considering that this matter appears to have been going on for some four years, with this man claiming he has not paid taxes for that period, would the minister report on this matter on Monday?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, I must obey the practice of this house and not report to the house on the tax affairs of individual taxpayers. I wish to assure the hon. gentleman, however, that the department will make every effort to collect every dollar of tax that is owing to the government of Canada.

Mr. Diefenbaker: He says you have been asleep for the last three years.

Mr. Lawrence E. Kindt (MacLeod): Will the minister in the administration of this matter adhere to the principle of applying the appropriate penalties?

Mr. Benson: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

HOUSING

RECOMMENDATION FOR REMOVAL OF TAX ON BUILDING MATERIALS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. V. Pugh (Okanagan Boundary): My question is directed to the Minister of Labour