

Inquiries of the Ministry

the tube industry is in decline at the same time the transistor industry is growing and I can demonstrate quite easily that there are more jobs now being created in the transistor industry than are being lost in the tube industry.

PLANS TO MAINTAIN OPERATION OF DUNLOP PLANT, TORONTO, AND YARMOUTH TEXTILE PLANT

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. What special plans has the minister with regard to saving the Dunlop tire plant in Toronto and also the textile plant in Yarmouth because, as he knows, this is very important?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I know it is important. Reasons have been given for the closing of that plant and these reasons have been accepted by my department as facts.

THE MINISTRY

REASON FOR ABSENCE FROM HOUSE OF MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Could he advise the House whether the Minister of Communications is on leave in view of his absence from the House for nigh on three weeks?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Was it at the request of the minister or of the Prime Minister?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

JURISDICTION OVER SABLE ISLAND

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. In view of the possibility of oil being discovered on or adjacent to Sable Island, will the Minister of Justice indicate whether this island is considered an off-shore territory of Canada over which the federal government claims complete jurisdiction or is this island considered part of the province of Nova Scotia?

[Mr. Pepin.]

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Not only is that a question of geography, it is also probably a legal question. I should like to take it as notice.

Mr. Crouse: In view of the importance of establishing geographical co-ordinates for the drawing of baselines in order to implement our new pollution control measures as well as to conserve our fishery resources, will the minister give an early indication of the proper status of this strategic island?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I or one of my colleagues in the cabinet might do that.

GRAIN

INTERNATIONAL GRAINS ARRANGEMENT—DISCUSSION OF STATUS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF EXPORTING NATIONS

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio who reports to the House for the Canadian Wheat Board. In view of the minister's announcement that a meeting will be held in Ottawa on May 4 and 5 with representatives of major wheat exporting nations, including a spokesman for the European Common Market, to discuss, among other things, limitations of wheat acreages, can the minister advise the House whether discussions on the present status of the International Grains Arrangement will take place, and will he and his advisers impress upon the United States representatives the importance of strengthening the International Grains Arrangement to prevent any further price-cutting by our competitors?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): The meetings in question are essentially to discuss production policies. There will be meetings later among interested countries in connection with the International Grains Arrangement. Of course we are always making our views known to our friends in the United States about the importance of the International Grains Arrangement.

ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM—CONSULTATION AND AGREEMENT WITH OTHER HIGH PROTEIN WHEAT PRODUCERS

Mr. H. A. Moore (Wetaskiwin): Before operation LIFT was announced, was any agreement made or consultation held with other producers of high protein wheat, such as the United States and Australia, so that they could also decrease their acreage?