

Oral Questions

[English]

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, our Assistant High Commissioner in Lusaka was in Rhodesia. He interviewed eyewitnesses. He received the utmost courtesy from the government of Rhodesia. Since we do not have diplomatic relations with the Rhodesian government, we are not addressing any inquiries directly to them.

[Translation]

ALLEGED LOSS OF LIFE BY CITIZEN OF ZAMBIA IN CANADA—REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs a supplementary question.

In the letter tabled in the House, I read the following:

[English]

"Last year a Canadian and a Zambian lost their lives in your country in the cause of strengthening our relations."

[Translation]

Could the Secretary of State for External Affairs tell the House the names of those two persons who died in Canada, and in what circumstances, in order perhaps to reassure those who will read that letter from the foreign minister of Zambia?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I took note of the same statement in the letter and am making inquiries. I was not familiar with the incident.

PERSECUTION IN THE UKRAINE—REQUEST THAT QUESTION BE BROUGHT BEFORE UNITED NATIONS

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, the House has just paid tribute to Cardinal Slipyj who for 18 years was imprisoned by the communists in Siberia. Attention has been directed to the fact that today Ukrainian writers, literary critics, journalists, professors and students are being thrown into prisons and psychiatric hospitals for expressing their thoughts and beliefs with regard to linguistic and cultural freedom, even though freedom of speech is guaranteed under the constitution of the U.S.S.R. In view of the persecution that is taking place in the Ukraine, will the minister bring this question before the United Nations to the end that the U.S.S.R. be asked to live up to its agreements under the charter of the United Nations?

● (1450)

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as one of the signatories of the convention on human rights we are urging all countries, including the U.S.S.R., to live up to their obligations.

Mr. Diefenbaker: A generalization of that kind will not do much to help those who are in great difficulty. Has a protest been made to the U.S.S.R. against the inhuman treatment being imposed upon people who appreciate freedom and who are simply speaking out in favour of certain principles in the constitution of the U.S.S.R.?

[Mr. Rondeau.]

Mr. Sharp: Like the right hon. gentleman, I believe in those principles and I urge that they be observed everywhere. Unfortunately, there are many parts of the world where the standards are not as high as they are in Canada. I hope they will all reach our standards, at least.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is no excuse at all. That is just an alibi.

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AGRICULTURE

ESTABLISHMENT OF EGG QUOTAS—ASSURANCES FROM PROVINCES OF PARTICIPATION IN A WAY TO ENSURE PROPER OPERATION OF PLAN

Mr. Bill Frank (Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture? In view of the fact that national egg quotas will be established among the provinces shortly, has the minister received assurances from all the provinces that they will be participating in such a way as to ensure the proper operation of the plan?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): The national egg marketing agency runs its own operation. I had been assured it will do so in a proper and fair fashion. I have no doubt it will do this.

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ENERGY

GASOLINE—ASSURANCE OF SUPPLY TO INDEPENDENT OPERATORS

Mr. Reg Stackhouse (Scarborough East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources supplementary to the one addressed to him by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands. It concerns the effect the shortage of gasoline supplies to service station operators is having not only on the smaller companies mentioned by the hon. member but also on individual independent operators who, in communities such as Scarborough, are in danger of being put out of business by their inability to obtain gas. Is the minister prepared to call representatives of the major oil companies together and use his good offices to ensure a more equitable distribution of gasoline among all operators, including those independent dealers who are so important in keeping prices of gasoline competitive in Toronto?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I had a meeting with representatives of the industry on Friday last.

Mr. Stackhouse: I thank the minister for the answer he gave us by telling us there was a meeting. Will he now tell us whether it produced any results? We know that the price of gas in Toronto has gone up by six cents in the past month.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): As I told the House in the debate last Monday, we advised the industry that we expected them to meet the demands of Canadian consum-