

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, November 17, 1964

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

STANDING ORDERS

Fourth report of standing committee on standing orders—Mr. Asselin (Notre Dame de Grâce).

UNITED NATIONS

PROVISION FOR PURCHASE OF CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS BY CO- OPERATIVE CREDIT UNION

Mr. J. N. Ormiston (Melville) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-139, to provide adequate national agricultural credit to the food and agriculture organization (F.A.O. and the Canada pension plan).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Ormiston: The objectives of this bill are spelled out in considerable detail in the explanatory note, so in the interests of brevity and with your permission, Mr. Speaker, I should like to quote from the first paragraph:

This bill provides for a United Nations co-operative credit union whereby more than 100 nations may buy the food and agricultural products of Canada on term credit; and by so distributing these products, actively contribute toward an expanding world economy, vitally strengthen Canada's position in the food market of the world, and assure a rising standard of living for Canada's farmers, fishermen and forest workers; and, in so far as revolution marches on an empty stomach, contribute to world peace.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO INCREASED FOREIGN AID CONTRIBUTIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is it the intention of the government to greatly extend and increase Canada's aid under the Colombo plan during the current fiscal year? If so, is the minister in a position to make the appropriate announcement prior to the discussion of his estimates?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I have already made the announcement, on November 14.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): May I ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister care to tell the house about any increased contribution Canada is going to make by way of foreign aid, particularly through technical assistance programs of the United Nations, as has been announced in the press? Can the minister tell the house whether any steps have been taken by the various nations toward making up for the decision of the United States not to contribute to this program, with a view to seeing to it that the program is not curtailed as a result of the United States withdrawal, temporary though it may be?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): There has been no action taken with regard to the last part of my hon. friend's question. The United States contribution represents about 40 per cent of the total program. The United States has not said it will not irrevocably meet its normal commitment. Yesterday we pledged our contribution totalling some \$7,325,000 for 1965. This includes our contribution to the special fund in the amount of \$5 million and our contribution to the expanded program for technical assistance which will be at the same level as in 1964, \$2,325,000.

Mr. Douglas: Since at the moment the United States have not indicated their willingness to contribute, if the remaining nations were to double their contributions this would certainly make up the deficit, and it would not be a very large sum. Is the Canadian government giving any thought to doubling its contribution if the other nations participating are willing to do the same, so this program does not have to be drastically reduced?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I do not think Canada need be ashamed of the support it has given to this program. Canada, as a close and understanding friend of the United States, is aware of the contribution that country makes to the activities of the United Nations. I cannot believe that the