

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, this matter has been questioned by a number of producers and their organizations and, indeed, their marketing agencies under provincial jurisdiction in other provinces. I sincerely hope, and we are pursuing the matter, that we can find a negotiated position rather than attempt to enforce some legal interpretation of whether there has been a violation of certain authority with respect to the situation.

TRADE

SURTAX ON IMPORTATION OF SHIRTS—EFFECT ON EXPORTS OF RETALIATORY MOVES BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS

Mr. David Anderson (Esquimalt-Saanich): My question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Speaker. With reference to the statement made a few moments ago by the Minister that Canada intends to curb the importation of shirts, may I ask whether any studies have been carried out on the possible detrimental effect on Canadian export industries of retaliatory moves by foreign governments?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, consultations have been taking place in that respect, and I will be very keen to demonstrate to my hon. friend that this action will not have the result he fears because of the exceptions mentioned in my statement.

Mr. Anderson: I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. Did the Prime Minister discuss this restrictive Canadian measure with the heads of governments he met on his recent Far Eastern tour and did they indicate at that time whether this might put Canadian exports in a more difficult position in those countries?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I did have occasion to discuss this question with the heads of government in the countries where it applies. They were already aware of the general lines of our policies and I indicated to them that we would be taking steps rather soon after my return. There was no indication that this would bring retaliatory measures, but of course they did not know then exactly in what way our measures would affect them.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Post-

master General. Based on the Post Office Department's failure to make delivery of a large quantity of mail sent out by the borough of York and that body's subsequent decision to use a private delivery firm for future deliveries, can the minister advise if his department is following a deliberate policy of overcoming its problems by discouraging potential customers from using its service?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

FINANCE

FREEING OF DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE—DROP IN PRICE OF WHEAT

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): My question is for the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the minister stated yesterday that the introduction of the floating exchange rate would give Canadians more for their products that are sold abroad, including wheat, how does he account for the fact that the price of wheat for all grades dropped six cents in Winnipeg yesterday?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question is obviously argumentative. The hon. member for South Shore.

FISHERIES

LOBSTERS—INCREASE IN PROTECTION PERSONNEL TO PREVENT DRAGGERS FROM DESTROYING INSHORE STOCKS

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): A question for the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the controversy raging among the inshore lobster fishermen on the east coast since the minister brought in amendments to the Fisheries Act which permit the catching of lobsters outside the 12-mile limit during any period of the year, is it the minister's intention to increase the fisheries protection staff in order to police the coast adequately so that lobster druggers will not destroy the inshore lobster stocks?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): We will look at that suggestion very carefully, Mr. Speaker.

SALMON—CONSIDERATION FOR NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERMEN INVOLVED IN JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that there has been considerable misunderstanding