

Inquiries of the Ministry

which, he said, is the fact that the federal government has failed to carry out its part of the bargain in the agreements that were entered into between the Ontario and the Canadian governments dating back to 1966.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think it is not a proper question to ask the minister, simply whether he proposes to comment on a statement made outside the house. I do not think the question in those terms is acceptable.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): May I put it in another way, and ask the minister whether he can advise the house as to what action his government has taken with respect to the federal-provincial agreements relating to Indian Affairs which were signed in 1966 between Ontario and Canada?

Mr. Speaker: I doubt very much whether the question as asked is in order. The hon. member is asking for a statement from the minister concerning action taken following an agreement signed three years ago. I would think this is the kind of information which should normally be offered to the house by way of a statement on motions.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): With respect, Mr. Speaker, I have noticed that on other occasions when ministers have tried to rise to answer questions you have been generous enough to give them an opportunity to do so. The minister has been showing his desire—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I feel very ungenerous this morning.

FAILURE OF FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL
COMMITTEE TO MEET

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Mr. Speaker. Is it a fact that the federal-provincial committee on Indian affairs has not met for 12 months?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question as asked is not in order. The hon. member is asking the minister to confirm or deny that a committee has sat or has not sat. Certainly a question in this form is not in order.

Mr. Brewin: I will rephrase the question, then, and ask the minister to tell us when that committee last met.

Mr. Speaker: If the implication in the original question was that the committee has not met for one year, I would think the question should be placed on the order paper.

[Mr. Howard (Skeena).]

IMMIGRATION

ADMISSION OF PERSONS WITH
CRIMINAL RECORDS

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): I have a question to direct to the Prime Minister. Before doing so however I should like to make a correction in *Hansard* of yesterday. As reported at page 8941, in reference to deserters from the United States, I asked the Minister of Manpower and Immigration whether he was aware of the fact that deserters from the United States Army are more or less criminals. Mr. Speaker, the words "more or less" do not belong there. I referred to the fact that deserters were criminals. I now direct my question to the Prime Minister. Inasmuch as a criminal record bars entry into Canada, how can the entry of deserters be justified?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I think the hon. member had better put the "more or less" back in there—perhaps more of the "less" than of the "more".

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. MacInnis: A supplementary question. I asked the Prime Minister to give me credit for checking this out with the United States authorities before making the statement I did with regard to the position of deserters. I suggest the Prime Minister should also check it out with the United States authorities. May I ask him this? What does he intend to do about the Canadian law under which the death penalty can be imposed upon any Canadian deserter?

Mr. Speaker: Of course, that supplementary question is argumentative.

TRADE

WHEAT—FUTURE SALES—ALLEGED I.G.A.
PREFERENCE

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Speaker. I notice he has been leafing through quite a heavy mail. Could he tell the house whether one of those letters happens to be an order for a substantial amount of wheat?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Muir (Lisgar): May I rephrase my question. I wonder whether the minister could report to the house on any wheat sales that have been made recently, or which are expected to be made in the near future.