

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[Translation]

**AGRICULTURE****DAIRYING—REFUNDS ANNOUNCED BY MINISTER—DATE OF MAILING OF CHEQUES TO QUEBEC PRODUCERS BOARD**

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

In view of the announcement regarding the repayment of 16 cents per hundredweight to manufacturing milk producers, could the minister advise the House if such refunds will soon be mailed to the Office des producteurs du Québec?

[English]

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure what is meant by the 7 cents. Some time ago I announced there would be a refund of from 20 cents to 10 cents on the hold-back on manufacturing milk and, indeed, from 26 cents to 10 cents on that portion collected prior to June, I believe. Some of these cheques I think ought to be ready soon, but I will check on the exact date when they will be mailed.

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**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****DISPOSITION OF MONEY TO ASSIST EAST PAKISTANI REFUGEES IN INDIA**

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can he indicate today the present state of the recently announced \$18 million contribution toward assisting Pakistani refugees in India? Can he indicate how much of this has actually been turned over, to what authorities and in what precise form?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to take notice of the question. I might add, however, that the policy of the Canadian government continues unchanged. It is our intention to make that money available to help the refugees. Needless to say, a complication arises when the refugees return to their homes, but this is a question which we will have to discuss as the situation develops.

• (2:20 p.m.)

[Later:]

**Mr. Macquarrie:** My supplementary question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In consideration of the clearly immense problems which will follow the cessation of hostilities, can the minister advise whether consideration is being given to stockpiling foodstuffs and materials in the area nearby and whether in particular the government is emulating the government of the United States in acquiring vast quantities of processed potatoes for distribution in this very worthy cause?

**An hon. Member:** Potatoes from Prince Edward Island.

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, the government is following these developments very closely. As I said in reply to the earlier question, the situation is now changing. We may

[Mr. Speaker.]

not have as many refugees in India as we had in the past but we will have new complications arising out of the declared policy of India to recognize the new state of Bangla Desh, which is not Canadian policy at present; so we have complications arising out of that.

I can add that, as the hon. member knows, we had made provision for help in the form of food to East Pakistan. It was impossible to deliver this food which has now been diverted and I hope it can be moved in to help. We may have to do other things as well. I am sure the hon. member would agree that the Canadian government should do everything possible to help in this humanitarian effort.

**INDIA-PAKISTAN WAR—BRITISH RESOLUTION IN SECURITY COUNCIL CALLING FOR CEASEFIRE—CANADIAN POSITION ON RIGHT OF EAST PAKISTAN TO CHOOSE INDEPENDENCE**

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** My question is related, Mr. Speaker. Can the Secretary of State for External Affairs inform the House whether or not the British government is proposing a compromise resolution in the Security Council which calls for a ceasefire in the India-Pakistan war but realistically recognizes the fact that the people of East Pakistan should have the right to choose independence if they so desire and that the withdrawal of Indian forces from East Pakistan is dependent on this recognition?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** I cannot vouch for all the contents of this resolution but I can confirm that a resolution has been put forward in the Security Council, rather along the lines we had originally proposed when the matter was before the General Assembly but which unfortunately could not be adopted at that time. We believe that something much more realistic than what was approved in the General Assembly is appropriate.

**Mr. Brewin:** Does the Secretary of State for External Affairs go so far as to agree with the resolution that the people of East Pakistan should have the right to choose independence if they so desire?

**Mr. Sharp:** I have not seen the terms of this resolution and I would hesitate to give an answer. As the hon. gentleman knows, the problem between self-determination and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states is an unsettled problem.

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**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY****MEASURES TO INCREASE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTIVITY AND PROVIDE JOBS**

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In view of the statement in the latest report of the Economic Council of Canada, which as the minister knows was produced recently, that "industrial productivity in Canada must increase considerably if the economy is to produce the jobs needed by the rapidly growing work force", is it the intention of the government to bring about