

Inquiries of the Ministry

whether or not the Canadian government intends to send observers?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian government and the governments of Britain, Poland and Sweden, the United Nations Organization and the Organization for African Unity all received invitations of this kind. As the Prime Minister stated in his press conference yesterday, we have very serious misgivings about this proposal and are not altogether satisfied that the conditions relating to the activities of such observers are adequate for the purpose. We want to be sure that the observer can have freedom of access and so on.

However, acceptances have now been received by the Nigerian federal government from Sweden, Britain and the United Nations Organization, and notwithstanding our misgivings we feel that if there is going to be an international team of this kind we should participate. Its purpose, as the house knows, is to observe the conduct of the military operations and to avoid slaughter if possible.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, the government has decided in principle to send an observer. He is Major General W. A. Milroy, who is currently commandant of the Canadian land forces command and staff college at Kingston, Ontario. I will be issuing a statement today on the conditions relating to Canadian participation.

TRADE**CORN—REQUEST FOR DUTY AGAINST
U.S. IMPORTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. William Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Revenue but in his absence perhaps I may direct it to the Minister of Agriculture inasmuch as it concerns both departments. My question relates to the importation of United States corn into southwestern Ontario at the time of our harvest season. I am sure the minister is aware of this situation. What steps are being taken to speed up action by the department concerned to impose protective duties on a temporary basis so that our corn harvest may proceed in an orderly manner?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I do not think the solution is quite as simple as putting up temporary barriers for this harvest season. One of the basic problems with corn marketing in southern

[Mr. Anderson.]

Ontario is the need for an orderly system of marketing that will assure the users of this commodity a uniform supply and quality. There is also need to equate the returns on corn to the growers with the requirements of the users including the feeders who, I am sure my hon. friend realizes, must remain competitive in the North American market.

This problem has been under active consideration. I have had two meetings with representatives of the corn producers and we are exploring several suggested ways of dealing with the problem as a result of the market price having been lowered this year.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**STEPS TO MEET INCREASE IN COST OF LIVING**

On the orders of the day:

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Queensway): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the continuing rise in the cost of living would the minister say what immediate steps he has in mind to protect the living standards of the consumers, and does he plan to contact the provincial governments in regard to this matter?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the government, as the Prime Minister stated just a few moments ago, is having consultations on the question of prices and costs. In the course of the summer a number of our officials consulted with the provinces on this question.

[Translation]

EDUCATION**ST. LEONARD, QUE.—PROTEST AGAINST
CHANGES IN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. André Fortin (Loisbinière): Can the Prime Minister tell us whether he considers closed the intervention of the federal government in the matter of St. Léonard?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as concerns the protection of public liberties, the task will not be over so long as we have not reached our aim: the insertion in the Canadian constitution of a charter of public liberties binding on all levels of government. As regards school matters specifically, the hon. member knows that they do not come under our jurisdiction and that not only is the matter not closed but that it has not yet started.