

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is a most unusual question of privilege.

Mr. Trudeau: Is it a lie or not?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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FINANCE

UNEVEN MOVEMENT OF MONEY SUPPLY—REVIEW OF MONETARY POLICY

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Would the minister tell us what steps he is taking, along with the Governor of the Bank of Canada to review the procedures and to establish a monetary policy that will avoid the uneven movement in the money supply, as indicated in the report of the Economic Council of Canada, which has led to considerable disruption in economic policies in the country during the past year?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the governor and I discuss this matter every week.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. It may be discussed every week, but what are they doing to even out some of the uneven applications of the policy with the results pointed out by the Economic Council?

INTEREST RATES—MEETINGS WITH CHARTERED BANKS—RESTORATION OF CEILING UNDER ACT

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Inasmuch as the Economic Council of Canada states that the exorbitantly high interest rates in Canada are the main factor in holding back economic growth, may I ask the minister if he is contemplating any meetings with the representatives of the chartered banks to deal with this matter or, failing that, is he considering the advisability of introducing legislation to impose a ceiling on interest rates under the Bank Act as was the case formerly?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker.

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AGRICULTURE

INTERPROVINCIAL MARKETING—REQUEST FOR REFERENCE TO SUPREME COURT—PURCHASE OF SURPLUS EGGS, BROILERS AND TURKEYS

Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the Supreme Court's rejection of Manitoba's application to have certain marketing board regulations respecting interprovincial trade brought before that court for a decision, will the government, through the Department of Justice, now initiate some action to bring these regulations before the Supreme Court?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice replied to a question of that nature last week.

Mr. Baldwin: He waffled on it.

Mr. Thomson: As the federal government has taken no action with regard to the legal question involving marketing board legislation and in view of the urgency of the situation with regard to chicken and egg prices, will the government not consider some form of surplus purchasing of eggs, broilers and turkeys to help to solve the problem immediately?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, requests have been made for that kind of action. I should draw to the attention of the hon. members that I am ready to pass the marketing legislation any day that the House indicates it is ready to do so.

Mr. Baldwin: Why does the government not use the War Measures Act?

Mr. Olson: Why does the hon. member not help us to maintain unity?

FARM MACHINERY PRICES—INVESTIGATION BY DEPARTMENT—REFERENCE OF BARBER COMMISSION REPORT TO COMMITTEE

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Inasmuch as the move to float the Canadian dollar has not resulted in a corresponding decrease in the prices to the farmer of farm machinery and repair parts, would the minister say whether his department is conducting an investigation into this matter and undertake to make a statement on motions?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, Dr. Barber has indicated to me, and I think I conveyed this message to the House some time ago, that in his final report, which we expect shortly, there will be a chapter dealing with repair parts, services and prices. I presume that he has the very same situation the hon. member alluded to under review.

Mr. Mazankowski: Since the Barber report has been in the hands of interested parties for some considerable length of time and as a fair amount of public debate has gone on, can the minister say whether any consideration is being given to referring the Barber report to the Standing Committee on Agriculture, as well as other matters relating to farm machinery prices?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, the government has not received the report of the Barber Commission. What we have received are special research reports on specific subject matters. The report and recommendations of the Barber Commission as such have not been presented to the government.

[Later:]

Mr. Mazankowski: I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Agriculture. Has the minister received