

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING BROILER MARKETING BOARD— GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Since the broiler producers' association has been waiting a long time now for the decision of the cabinet on the creation of a marketing board which would meet the long-term interests of consumers, and since the Minister of Agriculture said he was in favour of such a project, is the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs prepared today to support the Minister of Agriculture, so that the project may be announced as soon as possible?

[English]

Hon. A. C. Abbott (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I suggest to the hon. member that he is correct in referring to the Minister of Agriculture because this particular policy falls under his jurisdiction. I believe his last answer is that cabinet will be considering the matter soon.

[Translation]

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed again to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. As that marketing board will have interesting consequences for consumers, can the minister tell the House whether he is willing to support the Minister of Agriculture who seems to need it before he can make the long-awaited announcement?

[English]

Mr. Abbott: Mr. Speaker, I prefer to reserve my comments for cabinet where this matter is being considered rather than for the hon. member for Joliette.

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[Translation]

PENITENTIARIES

POSSIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUBCOMMITTEE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jacques Lavoie (Hochelaga): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General.

In view of the questions put yesterday in the House, and in particular further to one of his replies to the effect that an advisory group made up of representatives of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Canadian Penitentiary Service and the Parole Board will be set up to study the recommendations of the subcommittee on justice and legal affairs, can the minister tell the House whether, after those three weeks have elapsed, when this study group makes recommendations to him on the recommendations of the subcommittee, he will implement the recommendations of the subcommittee or those of the study group, and also whether he will consult the subcommittee? I ask that because the newspapers spoke of the matter this morning leading to some confusion.

Oral Questions

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question. Of course, if there is confusion I should like to dispel it as soon as possible. I assigned a group of senior officials in my department the task of studying as quickly as possible the recommendations of the subcommittee and letting me know as soon as possible which of them can be implemented without delay. I gave specific instructions that I be given recommendations to that effect, and not I be given the reasons for which recommendations could not be implemented. Instead, I asked them to indicate which recommendations, of which I am sure there will be a number, could be implemented quickly.

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[English]

FINANCE

SUGGESTION BANKS LOWER INTEREST RATE ON CONSUMER LOANS

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance and invite the attention of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. My question is based on the fact that although the bank rate in the last two or three years has come down from a high of 9.5 per cent to 7.5 per cent, the chartered banks are still charging 13.5 per cent for consumer loans. Will the government take steps to see to it that ordinary Canadians get the benefit of the reduction in the bank rate?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I will consider the suggestion.

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SOCIAL SERVICES

MEASURES TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR THE BLIND

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the hardships being encountered by the handicapped of this country, particularly the blind, will the minister advise what progress is being made with regard to the report "Vision Canada"? Is any action being taken on recommendations that seem to be justified?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the recommendations concerning my department and coming under its responsibility have been acted upon. A number of other recommendations are directed to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, which is now considering some and acting upon others. We are working closely with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind to implement the recommendations of this report.