

SUGGESTED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT
OF ARCTIC

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister advise the House, in view of the co-operation which is needed in the Arctic, whether he favours an international conference of the polar countries in terms of the development of the Arctic; and in view of the recommendations in the report, would the minister also advise the House whether he looks favourably upon the formation of a national wilderness park on the slope, upon the whale sanctuary as outlined in the report, and also upon the bird sanctuary in the Mackenzie delta?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Well, Mr. Speaker, I will have to admit to the hon. member that having just returned to Ottawa at lunch time I have not yet had a chance to read the Berger report; I have read only press reports on the report at this time. I am certainly in favour of any exchange of information with the international community on problems which are as vital as these.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

POSSIBLE CANCELLATION OF QUOTAS FOR FLUID MILK
PRODUCERS—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

During the year 1976-77, fluid milk producers managed to get 25 per cent of the quotas of manufacturing milk producers through the producers' boards, which situation is unfair and has reduced some manufacturing milk producers' quotas to what they were in 1971; can the minister tell us whether he is aware of that situation and, if so, what does he intend to do to improve it?

● (1500)

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we are meeting in the supply management committee tomorrow with, I hope, a majority of the ministers of agriculture concerned with this dairy problem. I understand there has been some inequity in the programs administered by the provinces and by the Canadian Dairy Commission. I do not think there are very many things which are perfect in this world, either.

[Translation]

Mr. Beaudoin: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Precisely to guarantee fairness to manufacturing milk producers, can the minister tell us whether he intends to suggest to them or their boards that they cancel present manufacturing milk quotas now held by the fluid milk producers in order to

Privilege—Mr. Nystrom

redistribute them among the manufacturing milk producers so that their production can reflect the year 1975-76?

[English]

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, all the quotas that come under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Dairy Commission are administered by the provinces within the provinces. They are given a share of the national quota, and they administer them within the provinces.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

POSSIBILITY OF MAKING MONTREAL DESIGNATED AREA—
GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jacques Lavoie (Hochelaga): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

As 40 per cent of all construction workers in metropolitan Montreal are unemployed, and bearing in mind the severe rate of unemployment in the manufacturing industry in Montreal, can the minister tell the House whether he intends to make it a designated area?

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I trust, Mr. Speaker, that when the cabinet or government have taken a decision with regard to the possibility of giving assistance to the Montreal area, I shall have the wholehearted support of my colleagues of the opposition, including of course, the hon. member for Hochelaga.

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[English]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. This is a day which is auspicious in the life of government, and I daresay of this parliament, because it marks the first anniversary of the Prime Minister's statement that separatism in Canada is dead. I wonder if the Acting Prime Minister could inform the House whether it is the intention of this government to honour this day by making any other predictions.

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PRIVILEGE

MR. NYSTROM—SAFETY OF GRAIN ELEVATOR EMPLOYEES

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I notified your office on Friday about a question of privilege. It was to be pursued yesterday, but the Minister of Labour (Mr. Munro) was not in the House; therefore, I wish to pursue it today.