

*Oral Questions*

we would expect in future in terms of automobile investment.

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[Translation]

**HOUSING****SUBSIDIES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SOCIAL CENTRES—  
POSITION OF GOVERNMENT**

**Mr. René Matte (Champlain):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs.

Last November, the minister announced in a speech that the government intended to help the provinces and municipalities under the terms of the Housing Act and contribute up to 50 per cent of the construction costs of community centres such as sports centres. Could the minister say whether the government policy is definite or when it will be?

[English]

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure my announcement indicated we would assist solely in the building of sports centres. The announcement related to the provisions of the neighbourhood improvement program. This is essentially a housing program although it is designed to enhance the whole of the neighbourhood affected, and certain essential neighbourhood facilities would be available.\* We have entered into agreements with most of the provinces with regard to the application of neighbourhood improvement schemes. Only last week I discussed the application of the program in the province of Quebec. I anticipate reaching agreement with the provincial minister very shortly.

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**AGRICULTURE****SUBSIDY TO BEEF PRODUCERS—POSITION OF FEEDERS—  
PREVENTION OF RUSHING OF CATTLE TO MARKET**

**Mr. Norval Horner (Battleford-Kindersley):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Agriculture arising from the subsidy announcement made last Friday. There will be excessive runs of cattle to market as a result of which prices will undoubtedly be depressed to the point at which neither the producer nor the consumer will benefit from the subsidy. Would the minister consider assuring those who buy short-keep feeders that this plan will still be in operation when they return them to the market? Will the minister also extend the periods from April 6 and April 13 in respect of A-3 and A-4 steers so that the glut on the market in the next few weeks will not be so great?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** The dates April 13 and April 6 were chosen so that people would not be inclined to rush to the market, but we want enough cattle to supply the Canadian market. We have announced that this program will be kept in force until the beef market returns to normal. We are also working on a long-term program covering not only beef products but

[Mr. Gillespie.]

other red meat products. If we have a long-term agreement ready to put into force, and if agreement has been reached with the provinces in this regard, we shall put it into force; it will take over from this other plan, one which we realize is an emergency plan to meet the present situation.

**Mr. Horner (Battleford-Kindersley):** Surely the minister realizes there will be a tremendous run of cattle in the next short while and that it will far exceed the capacity of the market to accept. Those dates are far too early. It is rumoured this morning that the packer-buyers are going to ask \$4 less per pound, which will take away the 7-cent—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member's supplementary is more debate than a question. I am sure hon. members would not wish to prolong this subject too long, although I see a number of members are still seeking to be recognized for supplementaries. It might be we could spend the whole 40 minutes on this one subject, but I am not sure that is what hon. members want. Perhaps I might recognize the hon. member for Medicine Hat who asked the first supplementary, I believe, and then I will recognize the hon. member for Halton.

**SUBSIDY TO BEEF PRODUCERS—POSSIBLE APPLICATION TO  
IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE**

**Mr. Bert Hargrave (Medicine Hat):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should like to return to the subject of my first supplementary on the possible importation of heavy feeder cattle, not killing cattle sent to the packing plants. Surely the minister is aware that it is possible for these cattle to enter the country, be held here for three or four weeks and then slaughtered, and their owners would be eligible for the subsidy. How will it be possible for the minister physically to identify these cattle?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** A lot of the cattle being fed and put on the market right now in southwestern Ontario did come from the United States as feeder cattle. I am sure the hon. member is aware of this. It is a custom which has been followed for years; feeder cattle imported from the United States are finished in Canada and are sold as Canadian cattle. I do not know how we would overcome this situation. At the present time there is no movement of feeder cattle into southwestern Ontario although such a movement could easily develop. I am not prepared to say what we would do in those circumstances, because I believe the hon. member for Medicine Hat has stated many times that he wants the North American market for cattle—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

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**TRADE****DEFICIT UNDER CANADA-UNITED STATES AUTO PACT—STEPS  
TO RENEGOTIATE SAFEGUARDS**

**Mr. Terry O'Connor (Halton):** I have a supplementary for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce relative to previous questions. In view of the significant deficit recorded in trade figures already announced and in view