

of this section of the Canadian economy, clearly contrary to the intent of the Foreign Investment Review Act, would the minister advise the House what specific steps he has taken in regard to blocking that sale, stopping it from progressing any farther or even reversing it?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I was very surprised to read in the press of the proposed sale by Macdonald's to Reynolds Tobacco Company only one week after Royal Assent had been given to the bill. I met with senior members and representatives of the Reynolds Tobacco Company yesterday in Ottawa; they came to Ottawa at my request. I think it is clear that the deal has not yet gone through. I put a number of questions to them and I expect to hear from them in the very near future.

**Mr. Leggatt:** In view of the present hiatus in the coming into force of the bill, and in view of the fact the minister really does not have legislative tools to block or prevent interim takeovers, does the minister intend to introduce an amendment to the Foreign Investment Review Act which would have a retroactive provision requiring review of all takeovers during this interim period on a priority basis, so that the review board would consider takeovers made in the interim period first and, second—

● (1520)

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member who has had the floor for some time would allow the minister to answer the first question. He will be recognized for a further supplementary, after which I shall see the hon. member for Bellechasse.

**Mr. Gillespie:** Mr. Speaker, I am not proposing retroactive legislation to the House. I think I made clear in my statement on motions today the type of behaviour I would expect of firms contemplating a large investment for the establishment of a new business or the takeover of a large or medium-size Canadian industry.

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[Translation]

## GRAIN

### IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW FEED GRAIN POLICY

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Justice.

Since the new feed grain marketing policy for the whole of Canada implemented in the middle of October and whose object was to show equity towards Quebec farmers seems to be cleverly distorted by some middlemen since barley late last week was sold at \$6 per hundredweight in eastern Canada as compared with \$4.35 in western Canada, does the minister intend to conduct an inquiry and take action to put an end to such exploitation?

[English]

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to have an indication from the hon. member of the specific figures to which he refers. As hon. members know, the feed grains policy this year involves the deter-

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mination every two weeks of the actual price at which feed grain is selling in the prairie region, as agreed upon between the Canadian Livestock Feed Board and the Canadian Wheat Board, and the selling of that grain out of Thunder Bay at a price which relates directly to that level on the prairies. This means that the grain is available to a variety of buyers at that price. The price varies every two weeks when there is a further determination.

[Translation]

**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question.

Considering the reply just given by the minister and the policy that was implemented, could the minister tell the House whether he was informed by the Association des producteurs agricoles du Québec of the present situation in the province of Quebec, taking into account the figures quoted in my previous question?

[English]

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, these specific prices have not been brought to my attention, but the general supply problem which has been in existence for some time in the eastern part of the country has been brought to my attention frequently by Liberal members of parliament in this House.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I see a number of hon. members seeking supplementaries on the three subjects which have been raised. We will return to the first question and the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham. I have noted hon. member who are seeking the floor for other supplementaries and they will be recognized as soon as possible.

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## THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

### INFLATION—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO COMBAT DECREASING PURCHASING POWER OF INCOMES

**Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In view of the undisputed fact, based on the government's own statistics, that the real purchasing power of consumers has experienced a very drastic decline this year, can the minister tell us if this represents an expected and acceptable result of government economic policies, or will the minister now be acting so as to protect consumers from further erosion of their buying power and incomes?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I think the statistics to which the hon. gentleman refers, and which I of course do not challenge, are not complete in the sense that they neglect to advise the House that in terms of real purchasing power this House is entitled to consider the increase in disposable income of Canadians as the result of the reduction in taxes and the increases in pensions and family allowances. This means that in terms of real disposable income in the third quarter of this year, which is the period to which the hon. gentleman refers, over the third quarter of last year the real disposable, personal per capita income in this country was 8 per cent over that of last year.