

has existed in the past. As I have said, allocation within a province will be subject to discussion with the province concerned, but it will be based primarily on allocation to areas of high unemployment.

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Since not all hon. members intend to involve themselves in the scheme proposed by the minister and since the advertisements appearing in the national press leave a very positive impression in the constituencies that their member of parliament is involved, will the hon. gentleman cease and desist, or give instructions to his officials to cease and desist, from publishing, as he has, the kind of advertisement which indicates that all members are involved?

Mr. Andras: I was under the assumption that all hon. members would wish to take some responsibility in this matter. We have received many representations in the past year.

Mr. Nielsen: Not from all members.

Mr. Andras: Maybe not all. Maybe the hon. member wishes to avoid that responsibility. But many other hon. members have indicated to me that they wish to make a definite input when these projects are considered. I think this is a commendable suggestion on their part and I have followed it through to the best of my ability.

Mr. Nielsen: Will the minister answer my question and stop publishing the advertisements?

* * *

AGRICULTURE

IMPLEMENTATION OF MILK SUBSIDY—RESULT OF MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL MARKETING BOARDS AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Terry Grier (Toronto-Lakeshore): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Can the minister advise the House as to the result of the meeting that took place Wednesday between provincial marketing boards and industry representatives in connection with the implementation of the milk subsidy announced by the Prime Minister?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): A further meeting is being held today. The response, as I said at the time, was fairly good. They are trying to iron out the technicalities—I guess that is the best way of saying it.

Mr. Grier: Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, in reply to a question I directed to him, the Prime Minister referred to either the containment or a roll-back of milk prices as a result of the subsidy. Can the Minister of Agriculture confirm that his written announcement of the same date referring to the definite expectation of a roll-back is in fact a government policy objective?

● (1130)

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, it all depends on the agreements that we come to with the individual provinces which control fluid milk marketing for human consumption. These consultations are taking place.

Oral Questions

MILK—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE OF SUFFICIENT PRICE TO FARMERS

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In giving consideration to subsidies, roll-backs and so on, will the Minister of Agriculture assure the House that the dairy farmer will receive a price sufficient to cover his costs of production and to enable him to stay in business so there will be enough dairy production to serve the needs of the people of Canada?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I think federal action regarding industrial milk and the actions of the provincial marketing boards to try to guarantee producers a proper return, particularly the two main marketing boards in the provinces that produce over 80 per cent of the milk, prove that they are concerned. This government is concerned to see that consumers of milk do not have to bear this extra cost any more than they can afford to do so. This is why we are making this proposal to them at this time. I reiterate that our actions show our concern, and that the meeting we are calling on September 27 with the provincial Ministers of Agriculture, and with the leaders of the national farm organizations which will take place prior thereto, show this concern even more so.

* * *

[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

QUEBEC—ASSISTANCE TO DESIGNATED AND SPECIAL ZONES—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH PROVINCE

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I realize that the Chair is absolutely right in view of the statement made yesterday. I should like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Considering that a few months ago the minister announced that negotiations were under way with the provinces concerning the assistance program for areas in special and other zones, can the minister tell the House whether he will soon issue a statement following his talks on this subject with the Quebec government so that the people in charge at the municipal level may be made aware of the situation as soon as possible?

[English]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, very intensive discussions at a high level have been going on between officials of the department and the government of Quebec, indeed, with all provincial governments. I am happy to tell the hon. member that in the case of the province of Quebec substantial progress has been made with regard to agreement on a general development policy for the province of Quebec affecting not only my department but other federal agencies. It is our hope and expectation that a general development agreement will be ready for conclusion and signing later in the present year, I hope within a matter of perhaps a month or six weeks.