

REQUEST FOR RELIEF FOR FARMERS

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Madam Speaker, since all we are able to elicit from the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is nothing more than nonsensical rhetoric, I should like to direct my question to the non-Minister of Agriculture. I am sure he is aware that while domestic oil prices in the country have increased by less than 30 per cent at the wellhead, the price of diesel fuel to Canadian producers has more than doubled.

In view of the fact that the Minister of Agriculture is simply standing idly by, watching his colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, rape the producers of Canada, will he undertake to recommend to his cabinet colleagues some relief for the producers of Canada so that they can keep their input costs down?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, the hon. member knows full well that the producers of agricultural products in Canada have many benefits from programs.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Miss MacDonald: Such as interest rates.

Mr. Whelan: First and foremost, any Canadian agricultural producer can compete with any farmer any place in the world. They get their fuel at 40 to 50 cents per gallon cheaper in Canada than anywhere else in the world.

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EMERGENCY MEASURES

MEASURES TO ALERT ONTARIO CITIES FOR POSSIBLE EVACUATION

Mr. Jack Burghardt (London West): Madam Speaker, in light of the conference on emergency planning scheduled for June 5, I should like to direct my question to the President of the Privy Council. In the past few years the transportation of hazardous commodities has created an active awareness in all municipalities of the need for emergency planning. Many problems arise when a community is faced with large-scale emergencies, one being the large-scale evacuation of the populace. As is the case in most cities, the city of London does not have adequate alerting devices for a large-scale evacuation. I am aware that a federal warning system, controlled from Petawawa base camp, when activated, alerts ten counties in southwestern Ontario.

Some hon. Members: Question!

Mr. Burghardt: Because hazardous commodities are transported through London daily, would it not be feasible to design a system to segregate communities, one from another, so that the mayor of a given community could request, under extreme

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emergency conditions, that the particular community be alerted from Petawawa base camp?

[Translation]

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for his question. It is a fact that Friday I will have an opportunity to meet my provincial colleagues to discuss the principles which will pave the way for improved co-operation between the various levels of government so that emergency measures in Canada will be better planned. This ought to enable all regions, including of course the region of London, to cope much more efficiently with various emergency situations.

[English]

With respect to the specific matter raised by my hon. colleague, I will give instructions to officials in Emergency Planning Canada and ensure that they report to me in time so that in the very near future I can report to the hon. member.

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HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

UREA FORMALDEHYDE—REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO HOME OWNERS

Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Madam Speaker, we need emergency planning for thousands of home owners who are being poisoned by urea formaldehyde foam.

● (1450)

My question is directed to the minister for CMHC. Thousands of angry home owners and renters are organizing across the country because they are suffering from health problems and their homes are worthless because of this poisonous form of insulation. They hold the federal government directly responsible, and particularly CMHC which endorsed this program through its own CHIP program. They want action, not just a survey by telephone of 400 homes.

I would like to ask the minister, through Your Honour, since CMHC is responsible through CHIP, will the minister right this wrong? Will he take initiatives to set up information, testing and advice centres through local CMHC offices? Will he help to provide different accommodations for people who have health problems? Will he extend the RRAP program, a home repair program already in place, to help people get rid of this contaminated foam in their homes?

Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, first of all I would confirm that I am aware of the problems addressed by the hon. member for Vancouver East.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Cosgrove: I would like to say that in my own constituency there has been a meeting of affected home owners. I am quite aware of their concerns.

Mr. Clark: Got more hair than brains!