

*Oral Questions***AGRICULTURE****COMPREHENSIVE MILK MARKETING PLAN—INQUIRY
WHETHER AGREEMENT AMENDED TO PERMIT INCREASED
CHEESE IMPORTS**

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture and relates to his November 4 statement regarding the dairy industry. In light of the fact that the agreement signed by both federal and provincial agencies since 1971 commonly called the Comprehensive Milk Marketing Plan, was expressly designed to provide a balance between the domestic supply of butterfat and Canadian market requirements for butterfat in manufactured dairy products, can the minister say whether, before he announced last month the 100 per cent increase in cheese imports, he had the signed agreement amended by all the original parties to the agreement or their successors?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the agreement for the increase in the cheese quota is under discussion. We have not allowed any increase as of this time. We are reviewing the whole situation at present and there is some dispute as to whether or not we have followed the correct consultative process. Some of my people say we have, some dairy producers say we have not.

Mr. Jarvis: Mr. Speaker, I did not quite understand the latter part of the minister's answer. I wonder if I can ask him, by way of a supplementary, if at any time during the current dairy year he or representatives of the federal government notified the signatories to the Comprehensive Milk Marketing Plan agreement that he wanted to change the definition contained in the agreement as to what constitutes Canada's industrial milk requirements.

Mr. Whelan: We had many discussions with them. I am not sure whether or not that was discussed, but I am sure that they knew and were well aware of the increased importation into Canada of industrial cheeses at that time. They made strong representations against this and they are making strong representations against this at present. We are reconsidering the whole situation.

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MANPOWER**ALLEGED SUSPENSION OF MOBILITY GRANTS—GOVERNMENT
POSITION**

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In the light of the fact that unemployment figures show a heavy concentration of unemployment in certain regions in Canada while other regions are in need of workers, can the minister confirm or deny whether manpower mobility grants which enable Canadians to move from areas of high unemployment to areas of high employment activity have been suspended as of December 8?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, that is not correct. We have

[Mr. Mackasey.]

been improving our information services concerning local, regional and national job vacancies through the many measures we have been taking. The mobility grant activity has increased exponentially. I make no secret of that fact that by virtue of that increased activity we are matching our budgetary allocation for this year. There has been no suspension of mobility grants—we are making some modification but there is no suspension.

Mr. Epp: In view of the answer given by the minister, may I ask then if he is saying there will be no further mobility grants made in this fiscal year due to budgetary restrictions?

Mr. Andras: I said precisely the opposite. There is no suspension. We are matching our budget and therefore modifying it in some ways to make sure it is going to those who obviously need it most and are best able to use it, but there is no suspension.

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ENERGY**SARNIA-MONTREAL PIPELINE—ESTIMATED DATE OF
COMPLETION—POSSIBILITY DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS MADE
IMMEDIATELY**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I wonder if he can now give me the information I sought on Friday with regard to the estimated cost of completing the Interprovincial pipeline extension east into Quebec, the estimated date of completion and an estimate of whether or not the government of Canada will have to make a deficiency payment or a subsidy to support that line from its inception in view of the higher cost. Can the minister give that information or has he as much difficulty in foreseeing the immediate future as the Minister of Finance?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I made some inquiries with respect to the hon. member's question. It appears that the delays last week have not yet been quantified in terms of what they might add to the total cost of the line. The best information I have received is that it is not likely to be significant in the over-all. For these reasons, therefore, I cannot answer the other questions put to me by the hon. member.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**ADVANCE DISTRIBUTION OF SUPPLY BILL**

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members are aware of the fact that today is the last allotted day in the last trimester and accordingly at 9.45 this evening I will interrupt proceedings to put the question necessary to decide on the motion which is the subject matter of the debate today. Hon. members will also recall that last spring on the last allotted day when it was necessary to go into the business of supply, the passage through all the stages of the supply