

old plant that is now being shut down will be renovated and it is hoped it will be back in operation before the end of 1979.

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[Translation]

#### AGRICULTURE

##### WITHDRAWAL OF JANUARY, 1978, SUBSIDIES TO QUEBEC MILK PRODUCERS

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture.

Certain actions deserve questions and especially replies on the part of the Minister of Agriculture. My question concerns the Canadian Dairy Commission whose function it is to set and implement milk quotas for producers. In view of the fact that the CDC has withheld from Quebec milk producers the promised subsidies for milk production within the quotas set for January 1978, I would like to ask the minister if he does not think it a shame to penalize the Quebec milk producers by letting the CDC withhold the subsidies for their production in January 1978?

[English]

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member has a copy of the letter which was sent to the dairy producers in Quebec. A meeting was held with their organizations on January 26 this year to try to iron out their difficulties, to determine who is getting the quota and whether they are entitled to receive quota payments. That has not yet been ironed out. They promised they would have this information for the Dairy Commission within a few weeks. I understand that a meeting between the two producer groups and the Dairy Commission will be taking place in Montreal this coming Friday.

● (1427)

[Translation]

**Mr. Beaudoin:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary.

I should like to ask the minister whether he intends to cancel that holdback on the subsidies for the January 1978 production of the Quebec dairy producers, which consists of hiding the errors in the estimates and the lack of coordination of the CDC with regard to the producers. In addition, can he tell the House whether the CDC will be forced to tell the truth about the manipulation of the quotas by the market offices in Montreal and elsewhere?

[English]

**Mr. Whelan:** As far as I know, the CDC is a very honest organization. If anyone has any information that the CDC is doing something dishonest, I want to know that also. They want to make sure that the industrial milk subsidy goes to those who are entitled to it. The provincial marketing boards

#### Oral Questions

in Quebec, Ontario and other provinces have jurisdiction over the allocation of quotas. There is a mix-up in the province of Quebec, but they hope to iron it out on Friday. We are not satisfied with the way this quota is being paid in the province of Quebec.

[Translation]

**Mr. Beaudoin:** Mr. Speaker, the minister did not answer the question I put to him. I asked him specifically if the commissioners of the CDC will force the marketing offices, especially in the province of Quebec, to tell the truth about the manipulations or exchanges of quotas which I feel are completely abnormal?

[English]

**Mr. Whelan:** Everything within the power of the Dairy Commission will be done to make sure that any wrongs in Quebec or in any other province will be rectified.

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#### HOUSE OF COMMONS

##### PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

**Mr. Speaker:** Before continuing with the question period, I invite all hon. members to join with me in recognizing the presence in our gallery of two very distinguished visitors from separate countries, heading delegations of great importance in our relationships, the first being Mr. Minoru Masuda, Vice-Minister of International Affairs, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Japan, and the other, Dr. Sandor Beckl, State Secretary and President of the National Bureau of Sport and Physical Education, Hungary.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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#### NORTHERN AFFAIRS

##### NORTHERN PIPELINE—GOVERNMENT POLICY ON SETTLEMENT OF NATIVE LAND CLAIMS

**Mr. J. R. Holmes (Lambton-Kent):** Mr. Speaker, I have a brief but important question for the Prime Minister. It arises from the fact that a departmental document discussed at the Special Committee on a Northern Gas Pipeline yesterday, stated:

The government of Canada is prepared to extinguish native land claims if necessary by legislation to support its international word and commitment but it will only do so in a way which represents the fairest possible settlement to those involved.

● (1432)

I ask the Prime Minister if he will reassure the Indian and native people of the Yukon and British Columbia, and indeed people across Canada, that the government will not legislate a unilateral settlement but will continue a policy of negotiating a fair and just settlement of native claims.