

*Oral Questions***HEALTH AND WELFARE****OHIP PREMIUM INCREASE PROPOSED IN ONTARIO BUDGET**

Hon. Stanley Haidasz (Parkdale): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare whether she has made, or is considering making, any representations to the Ontario minister of health on behalf of the hard pressed people of Ontario who are faced with an increase in the cost of living because of the unreasonable increase in OHIP premiums exceeding AIB guidelines.

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I wish I could, Mr. Speaker.

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AGRICULTURE**REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN MARKET SHARE QUOTA ON CHEESE**

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. We are well aware of the minister's view on the market share quota, but would he seriously consider expanding the market share quota for Ontario—not very much, say 20 million pounds—on an experimental basis only, for aged Cheddar cheese strictly for export, the milk to be used for no other purpose than exported Cheddar cheese?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): We are willing to consider anything. However, I am sure the hon. member knows that the market share quota is decided by a group of people from all producer organizations in every province, along with the Canadian Dairy Commission. I can transmit his wish to them and have it discussed.

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CANADA COUNCIL**GUIDELINES FOR ALLOCATION OF GRANTS**

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State, whom I see at present counselling the Prime Minister, perhaps to see if he is eligible for a Canada Council grant.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Malone: Could the minister say whether or not he has received representations regarding the regulations that apply to Canada Council grants and, if so, could he give us an indication of the scope and the extent of those representations from across Canada appealing to the minister to establish definite guidelines for the allocation and receipt of Canada Council grants?

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): I did not quite grasp the whole question, as a result of faulty hearing, but I believe the hon. member was asking whether I have received representations relating to Canada Council grants. The answer

[Mr. Cullen.]

is that I have, indeed. However, the hon. member will know that the allocation of Canada Council grants is undertaken by the Council and is not under my direction. As a matter of course, I do transfer to the Council representations that I receive, for its information.

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FINANCE**REPORTED PRESSURE ON SUN LIFE TO STAY IN MONTREAL**

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I wished to address my question to the Minister of Finance, but in his absence perhaps I may direct it to his parliamentary secretary and get an answer from the minister tomorrow. Could the parliamentary secretary confirm the story that is going around financial houses, that members of the office of the Minister of Finance are putting pressure on major life insurance companies across this country to try to persuade Sun Life to stay in Montreal, and in return are offering them an extension of the monopoly for RRSP conversions?

Mr. Ed Lumley (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): I am not aware of the rumours alleged by the hon. member.

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AGRICULTURE**STORM DAMAGE TO FARM PROPERTIES—REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Mr. John Wise (Elgin): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. It relates to the very severe Storm that Swept across southwestern Ontario on January 26 of this year, causing general damage amounting to millions of dollars and also causing damage to individual farm properties, sometimes in excess of \$200,000 each. Can the minister say what compensation, if any, he is prepared to make to farmers and, indeed, to other property owners for the storm damage?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member is aware that before we even consider giving any aid, we must receive some form of request from the province which has suffered the disaster. I received in my office, I believe yesterday, from the Ontario minister a report in which he asks me to participate in an interest-free loan program in that we share the cost of the interest which would be involved in providing these loans to the farmers.

If I understand it correctly, although I would have to review it to be certain, I think it is for the produce that was lost, not for the buildings, etc., because I am sure the hon. member knows as well as I do that insurance is available for that, and no province or federal government becomes involved in a program when insurance is available in such cases.