

Oral Questions

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

INQUIRY WHETHER PRIME MINISTER WILL MEET MILK PRODUCERS BEFORE NEW POLICY ANNOUNCED

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a supplementary question of the right hon. Prime Minister, who appoints judges.

I take the liberty of changing the subject. Could the Prime Minister tell the House whether industrial milk producers, who are feeling rather tense now because of the apprehension caused by the official announcement of the policies of the government which is forthcoming, could relax if the Prime Minister agreed to meet the representatives of these producers? Would the Prime Minister tell the House whether he is willing to meet them before the deadline of April 1?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is probably not aware that a great number of milk producers came here to Ottawa last night. There was an important meeting between the members of our caucus and these milk producers. I regret that the hon. member was not informed.

INQUIRY WHETHER EASTERN MILK PRODUCERS WILL BE GIVEN SAME TREATMENT AS WESTERN PRODUCERS

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the right hon. Prime Minister another supplementary question.

Can the right hon. Prime Minister assure the House that he will show as much consideration for eastern milk producers as for their western counterparts, so that eastern producers not be the only category of workers in Canada who not only will not have to comply with anti-inflationary measures but will, in addition, following last night's meeting, see their incomes shrink below the 10.2 per cent inflation spiral?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the latter hon. member is as ill-informed as the former. A meeting took place last night between four ministers, thirty odd Liberal members and milk producers, and what the hon. member reported is not what actually did take place.

INQUIRY WHETHER PRIME MINISTER WILL MEET WITH FLUID MILK PRODUCERS

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I would also appreciate it if the right hon. Prime Minister would indicate clearly whether he is willing to meet fluid milk producers from Quebec or the representatives of the Agricultural Producers' Union, because we know quite well that last night the dairy producers did not see the Prime Minister. They only got evasive promises. This morning, they are deceived. They would like to be sure today that they will meet the right hon. Prime Minister and no one else.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am obviously pleased to hear the hon. member say

[Mr. Paproski.]

that four ministers and thirty odd members of the House are not as important, to the dairy producers, as the Prime Minister. I think that this is not very nice for the leader of the Social Credit Party, who is not always there to meet the people when hon. members receive delegations.

Mr. Speaker, before a fourth Social Credit member rises to make inaccurate allegations, I would like to say to the third member that the discussion in Ottawa relates to industrial milk and not fluid milk. The hon. member is in the wrong House, he should discuss fluid milk in Quebec City because here we are dealing with industrial milk.

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[English]

THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

ALLEGATIONS OF INTERFERENCE BY JUDGE MACKAY—
KNOWLEDGE OF PRIME MINISTER OF MINISTERS' INTENTION
TO APPROACH JUDGE HUGESSEN

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to get on to the topic of spilled milk. I should like to address my question to the Prime Minister. Last Thursday at page 11486 of *Hansard* the Prime Minister said he had not been told by the Minister of Public Works about his conversation with the judge. I wonder if it is agreed by the Prime Minister that the problem of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, as it is alleged, was a matter of intense concern within the government and at the highest levels of the Liberal Party. Did the Prime Minister have no other indication that the ministers of the government and eminent citizens had and were considering approaching the judge?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I must complete the premise of the question. What I indicated to the House was that I had no knowledge when the Minister of Public Works was doing it or after he had done it. He did not tell me he was going to, nor did he tell me, until this whole thing came before the House, that he had approached Judge Hugessen, so that is the context in which I replied.

On the other matter, I believe the hon. member is asking if high members of the Liberal Party were concerned about the matter. Perhaps the hon. member could be allowed to rephrase the question because I am stuck on the premise and I want to make sure it is precise.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: For clarification, the question I asked was whether any other minister of the Crown in fact communicated with the Prime Minister with respect to the approaching of the judge at the time this incident took place. The Prime Minister referred to no communication being had with the Minister of Public Works. I am asking whether there were other ministers or other persons who made approaches so that the Prime Minister had knowledge in advance of the intended approach to the judge.

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker, I know of no other minister who approached the judge in this case.

Some hon. Members: Who approached you?