

that much. They are entitled to a 4.4 per cent increase in quota, according to the international trading agreement. We have increased it by 1.5 per cent, which is not what the hon. member said, or some 1,400,000 pounds.

All I can say to him is that we are very concerned because we see a tremendous increase in the production of beef in Australia alone—34 million head of cattle in that country—and the tremendous productive capacity that is there. All they have to do is leave them on the range, and they can harvest them. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and myself are watching this very closely because they are under import control at the present time. They have been for the last four years, except for about nine months in 1976.

Various cabinet ministers have met the cattle people. I even saw the hon. member at one of our meetings in Regina last week. I am sure he found it very informative. I am sure, also, that he was there for beef interests and not political interests; he had the concern of farmers at heart. I am sure he heard various farm groups expressing their views to us at that time. We are taking them into consideration.

Mr. Nystrom: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Really, all I want is an answer to my question and the question asked by hundreds of farmers who met the minister on Saturday. Is it his intention to cut back on imports, as the farmers want? At the same time, would he give consideration now to introducing a national meat authority, as the overwhelming number of farmers in Regina wanted when he met them on Saturday?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, our concern is the concern of the beef industry in total, as it always has been. I am sure the hon. member recognizes that there is no group with more widely different ideas, more disseminated, than the beef producers of Canada. To put them all together and come up with a proper program is not as easy as one might think. You do not cut off imports from your trading partners with a snap of the fingers; it is not that easy. There are trading agreements with Commonwealth partners and members of GATT. I believe all the Commonwealth partners are members of GATT. You just do not throw those adrift and then fight compensation and trade wars, etc.

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY

EXPRESSION OF TRADITIONAL GOOD WISHES

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I had tried to get your eye at thirteen minutes after eleven o'clock to carry out a tradition of this House. As a matter of fact I had hoped that the chief spokesman for the leprechauns in this House, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan), would have risen in his place to extend to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the House on behalf of all

Privilege—Mr. Symes

of us here who pride ourselves on our Irish extraction, the top of the morning, sir, to you, on this St. Patrick's day.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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PRIVILEGE

MR. SYMES—ALTERATION IN OFFICIAL HANSARD RECORD

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege relating to an answer I received yesterday from the Secretary of State (Mr. Roberts) and the alteration of the official record of the House, namely, *Hansard*, which I submit misleads the public in what the answer of the minister was.

If I might explain my question of privilege I would hope that the minister would rise on this occasion to state clearly exactly how this alteration of the official record took place and to clarify what the government's position is on student loans.

By way of explanation I refer to page 3829 of *Hansard* of yesterday, and to my second question to the Secretary of State relating to the problem under the Students Loans Act whereby a graduation student, having obtained a student loan, must begin repayment of that loan after six months. There are no provisions in the act to waive that until the student obtains full employment. Any waiver of that repayment provision is entirely discretionary on the part of the banks that issue the loan. My question was as follows:

Mr. Speaker, given the fact that the minister knows full well that national students' organizations object to merely increasing loans because that decreases the grants allotted to students, I hope the minister takes my first question seriously. By way of supplementary, since graduating or terminating students must begin repayment of student loans six months after leaving their educational institutions, and in light of the disastrous unemployment rate, will the minister ensure that any bill to amend the Student Loans Act will provide that students need only begin to repay the loans after first obtaining full-time employment?

I submit the essence of the question is: "Will the minister ensure that any bill to amend the Student Loans Act will provide that students need only begin to repay loans after first obtaining full-time employment?"

The official transcript—more commonly called the "blues"—the literal taking down of the notes, indicates that the Secretary of State replied as follows:

Mr. Speaker, I have already given the hon. member that assurance privately.

I believe the television transcript or record of proceedings of yesterday will also confirm the original notes. In the official record of *Hansard* we find that five extra words have been added to the minister's answer, which I submit substantially alter the interpretation of the answer given yesterday.

In *Hansard* we read on page 3829 the Secretary of State saying:

Mr. Speaker, I have already given the honourable member that assurance privately that I will explore this.

Those extra words "that I will explore this" indicate a certain degree of ambiguity which, I submit, substantially