

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, the members of the New Democratic Party had an opportunity on Friday to lay before the country their policy to fight inflation.

**An hon. Member:** Give us the bottom line.

**Mr. MacEachen:** The fact of the matter is that they have no concern about inflation. They do not care about inflation.

**Mr. Deans:** That is not true.

**Mr. MacEachen:** They are prepared to see prices rise even further, because every policy that they recommend would lead to higher prices, more inflation, and higher interest rates.

**Mr. Deans:** No. Lower inflation.

**Mr. MacEachen:** That would be the result of their policy. It is time that the people of Canada understood how careless the NDP is about high prices. They do not care about that phenomenon in our economy.

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

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**TOURISM**

## IMPACT OF MERGER OF TRAVEL AGENCIES

**Miss Aileen Nicholson (Trinity):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State responsible for Small Businesses and Tourism. In view of the announcement of the merger of Sunflight Vacations Ltd. and Skylark Holidays Ltd., a step which will create a company more than three times larger than any other company in the industry, with control of more than 50 per cent of the Canadian travel industry, is the minister concerned about the impact both on smaller competitors and on the consumer, and has he referred the matter to his colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs?

[Translation]

**Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Madam Speaker, I have read about this in various press reports in Canadian newspapers. I share the hon. member's concern for maintaining the competitive value of this industry for the sake of the Canadian consumer, and I have already raised the matter with my colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

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[English]

**AGRICULTURE**

## OUTBREAK OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN DENMARK

**Mr. Bert Hargrave (Medicine Hat):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. The Minister of Agriculture will be aware of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease on an island off the coast of Denmark. He will also be

aware of the serious concern of the entire cattle and sheep industry about even the thought of that disease. He will also remember, as I do, the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Regina in 1952. I would ask the minister, therefore, what steps he and his health of animals branch are taking to protect the cattle and sheep industry from any possible outbreak of this disease in our country as a result of the ongoing export of Common Market surplus frozen beef supplies presently coming into Canada from Denmark?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, we are very concerned about this disease and its outbreak in Denmark. They do not know how it happened. It has been confined to one herd, and not even to the total herd in that farming enterprise. Those animals have been destroyed and every precaution possible has been taken. We have banned all meat products brought into Canada, either frozen or fresh, that are in store. Our records show that none have come to Canada for two months.

If the hon. member has any other evidence, I would like to have it because we are very concerned about what this could do. According to the rules under international trade, I believe they will need to be free of the disease for two years from the time that they discovered this disease in their country before they can export to us again. They follow the same pattern we do with other trading partners. I am told that they believe that this is a reasonable pattern to follow.

It is a disastrous occurrence for Denmark because they depend on the export of agricultural products for their livelihood and the export generally of swine—over three quarters of their production. So, it can be economically disastrous for their country. We sympathize with them because, even as cautious as Denmark or any country can be, it just proves the fact that this can happen.

## DANISH BEEF EXPORTS TO CANADA

**Mr. Bert Hargrave (Medicine Hat):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is to the same minister. I am sure that the minister is aware that there are several million pounds of European Common Market surplus export beef coming from Denmark presently in storage in Canada. What are we doing in Canada with that supply since it is a possible contamination source, and in view of the fact that foot and mouth disease cannot be detected in beef supplies? This is a serious situation. Can the minister say what our policy has been on it, and if he has been in touch with corresponding officers in the United States about this matter?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, I do not know if they have been in touch with the United States concerning this situation but we have issued an order that all beef and any fresh beef product, whether beef or pork from Denmark, be detained wherever it is in Canada and not allowed to be distributed.