

Oral Questions

Since it appears that the incident occurred as the result of inexperience on the part of the operator, will the minister undertake to look into this matter, have the whole question reviewed and, as an immediate step, ensure that the people providing this service are indeed qualified to do so?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the incident had not been brought to my attention. I am not sure the hon. member has any basis for suggesting the cause of it as he has outlined it. I did look at Air Canada's analysis of the reason for their change and the great economies involved in going to the new system. It seemed sensible to me. I will certainly be glad to bring the hon. member's representation to the attention of Air Canada concerning the qualifications of the people now involved.

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FINANCE

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE SITUATION IN
TEXTILES INDUSTRY

Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance arising out of Canada's present dilemma in trade and the fact that Canada is losing its shirt because Canada's shirt is losing.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Alkenbrack: Since current trade and mercantile policies of this government have disillusioned and muddled the Canadian people to the extent that they cannot afford to purchase the products of their own handiwork, what is this government doing to help our Canadian textile industry in the present crisis of unfair foreign competition? An example is the sale of men's shirts today in a large store on the Sparks Street mall, the Canadian-made shirt selling at \$8.99 and the Korean competitor selling at \$3.99—the latter outselling our product six to one?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, we have had a policy for a year and a half of establishing a quota system in Canada and dividing the Canadian market between Canadian textile products and imported products. I hope Canadian workers will never be called upon to work at the same rate as Korean workers.

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AGRICULTURE

USE OF SKIM MILK POWDER FOR LIVESTOCK FEED PURPOSES

Mr. John Wise (Elgin): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. With reference to the possibility of using greater quantities of skim milk powder for livestock feed purposes, has the minister had discussions with any of the Canadian feed manufacturers or producers with

[Mr. Mazankowski.]

regard to a special arrangement to make this product available to them?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I understand the Dairy Commission has had discussions in the past, although I do not know how recently. We announced a new program for this year of \$6.5 million. Part of that is to be used to develop new uses for skim milk powder. That program allows them to use it in any fashion or form they think is better economically than throwing it on the world market and trying to get rid of it in that way.

Mr. Wise: I am not referring to that at all. I am advised that some discussion was held with either the minister or the officials of the Department of Agriculture, and the commitment was given that a special arrangement would be made to make this product available to Canadian feed manufacturers at a price less than the support price, which would be 74 cents. That commitment was to be delivered when the dairy policy was announced on April 13, but there was no mention of it. Is the minister saying that no meeting was held and no commitment was ever given to either the Canadian Feed Manufacturers Association or any other producer group in Canada?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any meeting. No meeting took place between myself and any representatives of the feed manufacturers on an official scale. I did meet with some of them informally and we did talk about many things. We never talked about any formal arrangements or skim milk powder at world prices for animal use, as a supplement in place of protein. That has been discussed in the past for a special veal feeding program, a calf feeding program, and so on. I do not know how far it has advanced. I will certainly check and let the hon. member know.

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FINANCE

INCOME TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR PERSONS AFFLICTED WITH
CEREBRAL PALSY

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. It has to do with personal income tax deductions for a parent or parents of children who suffer from cerebral palsy. I am not referring to cerebral palsy children actually confined to a wheelchair, but those who, thanks to surgery, are able to walk and get around.

At the present time these parents have to pay up to \$40 a month for shoes, \$70 to \$75 a month for special tuition fees, and so on. Will the minister consider allowing personal income tax deductions or exemptions for the very high costs these parents have to meet?

● (1502)

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): I will take notice of the suggestion made by the hon. member and ask my officials to look into it. Any changes, of course, would have to wait for the next budget.