

*Oral Questions***CANADIAN DAIRY COMMISSION**

## RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. It concerns the Canadian Dairy Commission's export marketing activities which have been investigated three times recently, once by David Kates of the Public Service Staff Relations Board during the investigation of a grievance, once by Justice Hugh Gibson as part of a royal commission, and most recently by the Auditor General of Canada as a result of complaints arising from the previous two reports.

Since the Kates report revealed documents showing losses on one deal alone amounting to over \$900,000—money which comes out of the pockets of the farmers of Canada—and since the Auditor General's report has been in the minister's hands for some time, will he tell the House what recommendations were made by the Auditor General concerning the internal operations of the Canadian Dairy Commission?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member has made some wide-sweeping statements about the report. There was nothing in any of the reports I have received, up until the latest one which I have not had time to study. The final report just arrived on my desk last Friday, a week ago today. I have looked at it very quickly and I will be studying it and will be making it public in time. That will be in due course, after I have studied it, and I may follow whatever recommendations may be in that report.

I asked for the Auditor General's report. The Auditor General's report is a review that I asked for over a year ago. It was finally submitted to my desk last Friday. I have not had time to study it. I do not intend to hide that report in any way, fashion or form.

**Mr. Fraser:** An urgent, single supplementary, Madam Speaker.

**Madam Speaker:** The hon. member for Vancouver South.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

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**AIRPORTS**

## QUERY RESPECTING MIRABEL DESIGNERS

**Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South):** Madam Speaker, I want to thank you for your generosity. My question is also for the Minister of Transport. What we would like to know, Madam Speaker, is this: are the persons who designed and decided to build Mirabel still with the government and, if so, what are they designing now, where is it going to be, how much will it cost, and is there any possible way we can stop it?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, I have not made inquiries into the background of every officer in my department to find out if he was there or not away back in 1967 when that project was conceived. There

were also a number of consultants brought in from outside when the decision to build Mirabel was made.

I have been cautioned by a great number of members in the House to make my own decision on the subject. That is what I am trying to do. In doing so, I have listened and taken into account all the representations that were made here and outside the House. I am going to develop, in the presentation of the final decision, an answer to all the questions that can be raised and have been raised in the past.

**Madam Speaker:** The hon. member for Humboldt-Lake Centre, and I apologize to him.

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**CANADIAN DAIRY COMMISSION**

## IMPLEMENTATION OF AUDITOR GENERAL'S RECOMMENDATIONS

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre):** Madam Speaker, I would like to return to the answer given by the Minister of Agriculture concerning the Canadian Dairy Commission. Since he has the report and admits that he has not had time to read it, would the minister make a commitment to the House that once he has read the report and analysed its recommendations he will table that report with its recommendations, in the House, in addition to a report on the action taken by the Dairy Commission to implement those recommendations?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member is asking for something that I have already said I would do, that I would follow the normal procedure of making the report public. He is asking that it be tabled in the House. If that is the normal procedure, that is what I will do.

Let me say to him that there is nothing in either one of the two previous reports that found out that there was anything wrong with the Dairy Commission that you would find even under any normal business operation. There have been many charges made about the incompetency of the Dairy Commission. I had Secretary Block here, the Secretary of Agriculture from the United States, and when you talk about his dairy problems in his country, with the huge surpluses and so on, his search for markets and his subsidy problems, I can tell the hon. member that our problems are very small.

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**INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY**

## IDENTITY OF DEVON COLE

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. Will he tell us who Devon Cole is and what is his current relationship with the Solicitor General?