

Mr. Cossitt: Mr. Speaker, in view of the possibility of an imminent federal election—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Cossitt:—will the minister assure the House that in selecting or passing on applications this year it will be done on the basis supposedly laid down and not with any political considerations in mind?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is a representation. The hon. member has to assume his representation will be taken into account.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INFLATION—MEASURES TO MAINTAIN EARNINGS OF WORKERS

Mr. Duncan M. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In light of the fact the Steel Company of Canada, the largest steel producer in Canada, recently announced wage increases due its employees August 1, 1974, and an additional cost of living allowance of 15 cents an hour will be paid from August 1, 1974, in order to relieve the effects of inflation on the living standards of its employees, does the minister have any further measures to sustain the average weekly earnings of workers which have been seriously eroded by inflation?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have no comment to make on the action of the Steel Company of Canada.

Mr. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain): Maybe the minister will have some comment on my supplementary. In addition to the Stelco raise, the second largest steel company in the country, Dominion Foundries and Steel Company, also found it necessary to increase wages. What further evidence does this government need that its inflationary policies are not working, and what steps is the minister taking to keep real wages in line with inflation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the hon. member will agree his question is hardly in order when it contains argument. Perhaps the second part of the question might be in order and the minister might be prepared to reply to it on motions.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

CADET CORPS—AMENDMENT OF ACT TO PERMIT RECRUITMENT OF FEMALES

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of National Defence. At a conference of the Army Cadet League of Canada on the weekend, great concern was expressed about the lack of government action in amending the National Defence Act to permit the recruiting of females.

Oral Questions

Will the minister indicate what progress is being made in this regard?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I intend to recommend to the House a number of amendments to the National Defence Act. One amendment which I will recommend will allow the cadet corps to be open equally to girls as well as boys.

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AGRICULTURE

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT PRICES FOR HOG AND BEEF PRODUCERS

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact the government of British Columbia has announced a subsidy payment of \$4.50 per hundredweight to hog producers in that province and that previously Saskatchewan and Alberta announced subsidy payments, can the minister advise if it is the intention of the federal government to institute an adequate support price for hogs, or is it its intention to abdicate entirely its responsibility with regard to supporting the hog industry in Canada?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the first national approach to hog production and the problems the producers are having with the low prices of pork products will be tomorrow when I meet the national pork producers organization in my office.

Mr. Gleave: Since the market price of fat cattle has fallen by an amount greater than the five cents a pound subsidy now being paid, is it the intention of the government to bring in a price support program for beef cattle that will have some relationship to the cost of production?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, at the present time there are many people in the beef production industry in Canada who are telling us we should withdraw the program we have at the present time. This is a very disorganized group of people, probably the most disorganized group of producers in Canada. They have many different opinions about what should be done with regard to the beef industry. Therefore it is very difficult to solve the problem.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

GREAT LAKES—ACTION TO PREVENT FLOODING AND CLEAN UP POLLUTION

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of the Environment I will direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the fact the International Joint Commission announced last week that it is unable to stop any future flooding of the Great Lakes, as well as the unfortunate fact that the United States is admittedly falling sadly behind schedule in its clean-up campaign, what action