

Mr. Symes: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I find the minister's excuse rather shocking, and he is playing with the public's health in this regard. Let me ask the minister this. In fact the drug directorate makes only random samplings, and in 1973, 5 per cent of the drugs tested had to be withdrawn. Would the minister explore every avenue of drug testing, including private agencies, universities and so on, so that we do not have another thalidomide or similar drug disaster in Canada?

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the health protection services of this country compare favourably with the health protection services of any other country in the world. So far as the hon. member's question is concerned, we are, of course, continually reviewing our policies in this respect and any means of improving them will be examined. If the hon. member has specific suggestions I will certainly take them into account.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SUGGESTION PRIME MINISTER DISCUSS UNITED STATES BEEF IMPORT QUOTAS WITH PRESIDENT FORD

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to pose a question to the Prime Minister. In light of the apparent failure of our agricultural officials to discuss United States beef import quotas at the Washington meeting yesterday, will the Prime Minister assure the House that this subject will receive high priority at his upcoming meeting with President Ford on December 4?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would have to find out first what the results of the discussions yesterday were. I think the hon. member may be misinformed in saying that there was a failure to discuss them.

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AGRICULTURE

USE OF BEEF IN FOOD AID PROGRAMS—POSSIBLE OTHER MEASURES TO STABILIZE BEEF MARKET

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, which I will direct to the Minister of Agriculture. On November 21, I believe, the Minister of Agriculture stated that he had started to look for countries that could use beef in food aid programs, and he was also looking for other programs which would ensure that the market was stabilized. What has been the minister's response to the proposals made by the National Farmers Union, and what other programs of this sort has he under consideration at the present time to help stabilize the beef and red meat industry?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, while at the world food conference we did discuss with countries in dire need of food aid whether they could use beef, and we were told on two occasions that they could not. We have been exploring other areas to find out whether we could use beef in countries other than

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those two, but we have not yet had any success. Last Friday afternoon I discussed with the president of the National Farmers Union their proposals, and they are being considered at this time along with several other proposals regarding what we should do.

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CRIMINAL CODE

VIEWS OF MINISTER OF JUSTICE ON ABORTION AND CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. An article in yesterday's *Montreal Gazette* quotes the Minister of Justice as saying on the subject of abortion: "I don't think we should have a situation where, parliament having passed the law, we have it in any way widely abused". Would the Minister of Justice tell me whether he feels the same way on the issue of capital punishment?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that it is the view of this government that the appropriate approach to the law is to adhere to it in every respect in regard to all matters.

Mr. Friesen: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, which I will address to the Prime Minister. Does the Prime Minister support the Minister of Justice in his point of view?

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

DATE OF INTRODUCTION OF AMENDMENTS TO LEGISLATION

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to my friend the Minister of Manpower and Immigration who is responsible for the Unemployment Insurance Commission. In light of the latest report that the maximum weekly unemployment insurance benefit will rise to \$123 on January 1, and in light of the fact that the Minister has indicated that these payments are unproductive, would the minister advise whether the amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act are now prepared and, if so, when can we expect some priority to be given to the bill?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I did not say that the unemployment insurance benefits paid were unproductive. I said that in my view they should be made more productive. I would be very glad to explain that to my hon. friend in some detail on the first available occasion. As for the amendments to the act, they will be forthcoming and will be presented to the House in due course.

REQUEST FOR ESTIMATE OF AMOUNT OF BENEFITS PAID IN 1974

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I see the former minister of labour is very concerned at the fact that I have asked