

AGRICULTURE

INQUIRY IF MINISTER CONSULTED ON FOOD POLICY AND POLICY ON MARKETING BOARDS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. On May 2, 1977 at Montebello the Minister of Agriculture, in his speech to the National Dairy Council of Canada, said:

... the Minister of Agriculture ... in some ways is the last one to be consulted on food policy ...

I would like to ask the minister whether he has any input at all into the food policy that has been drafted by the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and if he does not, what is he going to do about it?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, you heard what the hon. member said. He said, "in some ways". Those ways are so insignificant that perhaps I should not have mentioned them.

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister can explain his remarks further on in his speech when he goes on to say that when the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs drafted a policy on marketing boards, and I quote, "we simply weren't consulted although ..." I wonder if the minister could explain that statement and explain what he is doing to make sure he will be consulted on a food policy. If he is not, does he mean what he says, that he will resign?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, we certainly do have full consultation on food strategy such as we are talking about. There may be the odd thing which comes out on which we are not fully consulted. I do not hesitate to make a comment on it. I do appreciate the hon. member's reference to my talk to that distinguished group of people, the dairy processors from all across Canada, who commended the government and the Minister of Agriculture for what they are doing for the dairy industry.

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● (1150)

ENERGY

USE OF SOLAR ENERGY IN DESIGNING PUBLIC BUILDINGS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. A draft financial report of the Department of Supply and Services indicates that on present trends only 5,000 solar houses will be built in the next decade, which is far below the estimated potential of 750,000 during the same period, because there has been no clear, unequivocal commitment by the government to encourage solar installations through low interest mortgages, loans and grants. In view of the Carter administration's widespread implementation of solar energy in its public buildings program, has the government made any

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plans for a single public office building in the future using solar energy?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I mentioned, in answer to a question earlier this week, that there were two specific projects underway with respect to retrofit in the Ottawa area. I am not at liberty at the moment to indicate which they are, but I hope to be able to make an announcement shortly. They would not be set up with the idea of providing full solar energy for heating, but a substantial portion of the heat would be provided from this source.

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LAW REFORM COMMISSION

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS WITH COMMON LAW LEGAL TRAINING BACKGROUND

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice and it concerns the make-up of the Law Reform Commission. When does the minister anticipate that members with a common law legal training background will be appointed to the commission which now consists entirely of those with a civil law background in legal training?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): I hope very shortly, Mr. Speaker.

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DROUGHT

ALLEGED APPOINTMENT OF MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO TO STUDY LONG-TERM EFFECTS

Mr. Dean Whiteway (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister without Portfolio. I wonder if the minister would confirm to the House that he has been commissioned by the Prime Minister to study the long-term effects of the drought and to correlate that with the findings of the Berger commission. Perhaps I can ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. If it is true that the Minister without Portfolio is no longer allowed to talk about these things in public, I will direct my question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

An hon. Member: Resign.

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister without Portfolio): I thank the hon. member for his question.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Horner: I want to assure him and the House through you, Mr. Speaker, that no constraints are placed upon me—

An hon. Member: Obviously.