

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, I have recognized that difference in replies in the past, but even recognition of the difference does not solve the administrative problem of probably paying on the same piglet more than once.

INCREASE IN FEED GRAIN SUBSIDY—EXCLUSION OF
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Agriculture if he is now in a position to reply to the question I asked of his parliamentary secretary some days ago as to why Prince Edward Island was excluded from the list of provinces to which Canadian Livestock Feed Board subsidies for feed grain shipments are made?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, Prince Edward Island is not excluded from those subsidies. Indeed, there have been no changes that in fact increased the actual cost to producers in Prince Edward Island. All of the changes that were made in the various zones across the country were to compensate for actual upward movements in transportation costs.

Mr. Macquarrie: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister if he would give consideration to amending or correcting the press release which was issued from his own office?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, I think it was a very accurate press release.

IMPORTATION OF FRENCH BEEF CATTLE—REQUEST FOR
STATEMENT ON PROGRAM

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. The minister will recall his reply to my question in the committee regarding the three-year no resale department requirement on imports of French beef breeds. Has the minister now had time to reconcile his reply with the facts as I disclosed them yesterday in the committee?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, my replies were not at variance with the facts.

Mr. Rose: I wonder if I might ask a supplementary question of the minister. Will he undertake a thorough review of this whole program and then make a statement in the House articulating an improved policy in this area?

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member for Fraser Valley West rising on a point of order?

Mr. Rose: Yes, Mr. Speaker. My point of order is that the minister nodded in reply and I do not think the *Hansard* reporter caught the nod.

Mr. Olson: I said yes, Mr. Speaker.

Inquiries of the Ministry

TRADE

EXPECTED MORE RAPID GROWTH OF IMPORTS
COMPARED TO EXPORTS—EXPORT TARGET

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Since there have been predictions by the business community in Canada that our exports in 1972 will grow more slowly than our imports, I would like to ask the minister if his department has an export growth target for 1972 and, if so, could he inform the House what that target might be?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the observation made by the hon. member is a correct one. In 1972 imports are expected to grow faster than exports. Indeed the present estimation is for a moderate growth of exports but in real terms, that is, with the lowest possible inflation content. The present expected growth is in the 7, 8 or 9 per cent range. If the hon. member wishes to see me later I will indicate to him a number of measures which we are taking to push on that moderate growth.

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SUPPLY AND SERVICES

SUGGESTED POOLING OF SURPLUS ASSETS OF ALL
CROWN CORPORATIONS WITH THOSE OF NATIONAL
DEFENCE

Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Supply and Services. Have he or his officials investigated the possibilities that would be inherent in the pooling of surplus assets of Canadian Crown corporations and those of the Department of National Defence with a view to economies in administration, increasing revenue through better merchandising techniques, and the possibility of departmental cataloguing and retailing of items?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, the pooling of assets of all Crown corporations is not within the area of my responsibility.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

POSSIBLE EFFECT OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT ON
LENGTH OF EASTER RECESS

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the government House leader. Can he tell us why he cannot say for sure whether or not we will be reconvening on April 10 after the recess? In fact, yesterday he said the return date would probably be later. Is it a fact that the government does not want parliament sitting while President Nixon is here?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!