

Oral Questions

my department was consulted, I will be pleased to make inquiries.

Mr. Kempling: Mr. Speaker, could the minister advise the House whether the subject of automobile replacement parts prices was discussed when he negotiated the price freeze on 1973 automobiles with the manufacturers?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that perhaps that question might be placed on the order paper or considered at the time of adjournment.

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FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS**INQUIRY AS TO OBJECTIONS FROM PROVINCES ON JURISDICTIONAL GROUNDS TO IMPOSITION OF PRICE AND INCOMES CONTROLS BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. I wonder whether the right hon. gentleman would tell the House if any provincial premier at the last Dominion-Provincial Conference indicated any intention to dispute on constitutional grounds the jurisdiction of the federal government in the event the federal government desires to get into a prices and incomes control policy?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Not to my recollection, Mr. Speaker. I would not want to be put in the position of stating definite constitutional positions of all provinces, but I cannot remember any vociferous expression of opposition.

Mr. Lawrence: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that at least three or four of the premiers immediately after the conference, and some of them even since, have publicly gone out of their way to indicate they would certainly not dispute jurisdiction of the federal government, I wonder whether the Prime Minister could recollect if there was a discussion on that particular ground and, if so, inform the House?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, the subject was raised and some provinces did volunteer the opinion that they would not oppose federal government action in that field. I just answered the previous question by indicating I could not speak for all the provinces, as I do not believe they all expressed an opinion on that. I might add that this was not the real bone of contention, if I could use that expression. It was not so much the constitutionality of measures, but whether they would work, and on this there seemed to be a strong feeling that they would not.

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AGRICULTURE**ALLEGED SHORTAGE OF FOOD—POSITION OF CANADA AT GATT NEGOTIATIONS**

Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the world situation and the fact that it is becoming all too apparent there will be a short supply of foodstuffs, will

[Mr. Gillespie.]

the minister inform the House what moves and actions he will take on behalf of Canada on upcoming negotiations on trade under GATT, and can he inform the House whether his department has considered this situation in terms of what policy will be presented?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I want to say, first of all, that I am more optimistic than the hon. member about the world's supply of grains, etc. Crop reports from the U.S.S.R. show a 12 per cent increase in the production of grain this year, and the United States forecasts a tremendous increase in the production of grain and soybeans. Our people are discussing these things at GATT, as far as that goes, but for me to try to give a full report at this time as to what stage they are at, how they are doing or what they are doing would be impossible.

POSITION OF CANADA ON NEW INTERNATIONAL GRAINS AGREEMENT—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, would the minister inform the House whether he is prepared to make a statement on motions in the near future, informing the House whether the government is attempting to get another international grains agreement in light of the need for grain supplies and the need to be in a position or in a mood to consider this type of agreement? Will the minister inform the house whether he would be prepared to do that?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, at a meeting of the OECD in Paris sometime ago this topic was discussed by governmental officials at all levels of each government concerned. This is very much on the mind of the government here as well as on the minds of many other governments; that is the fact that this is the type of program that should be negotiated. We are studying and looking at it very closely, but I cannot say when I might be prepared to make a statement to the House as I leave this afternoon for Charlottetown, and then from Charlottetown I go to Calgary. If you can be patient until I get back maybe a statement can be made.

SOYBEAN MEAL—DIFFERENTIAL IN PRICE BETWEEN CANADA AND UNITED STATES—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO CORRECT

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Will the minister be attempting to have the cost of soybean meal equalized as between Canada and the United States in order that our Canadian producers will not be at such a disadvantage, keeping in mind that soybean meal for protein supplement is costing our Canadian producers twice as much as the United States producers have to pay?

● (1450)

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, there is a great discrepancy in the price of this protein. We are watching the prices very closely and comparing what the United States producers of agricultural products pay and what the agricultural producers pay in