

AGRICULTURE

CORN—ACTION TO PREVENT DEPRESSED PRICES FOLLOWING HARVESTING

Mr. William Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Since the southwestern Ontario corn crop is about to be harvested, and since in past years American subsidized corn has glutted our market and storage facilities, will the minister take steps in advance, through countervailing duties or import quotas, to prevent the depressing of corn prices to Canadian farmers?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we are having a meeting with the representatives of the corn growers of southwestern Ontario today. One of the great problems is the same as we had in 1968, insufficient storage space with the result that all of this corn that is harvested with a high moisture content must go to market in a very short space of time. We hope that something can be worked out. It is not a problem of marketing the total crop over the year. It is just a problem of congestion over the harvesting period.

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TRANSPORT

LABRADOR AND QUEBEC NORTH SHORE—DISCUSSION WITH PROVINCES OF RECOMMENDED ROAD SYSTEM— REQUEST FOR FEASIBILITY REPORT

Mr. Ambrose Hubert Peddle (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that some 553 days have passed since the minister and the government accepted the unanimous recommendation in the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications—the exact date was March 6, 1970—can the minister now inform the house what action he has taken on his commitment at that time to initiate Ottawa-Newfoundland-Quebec discussions on the question of a high road system to serve Labrador and the Quebec north shore, and is the minister now prepared to produce the report on the feasibility studies on that subject which at the same time he agreed would be undertaken?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not think the report is at the point where it can be submitted yet; I do not believe it is completed. The kind of talks to which the hon. member has referred have taken place and I can say that considerable progress has been made on a conceptual approach as to how this project might be undertaken. If the hon. member would like a recorded report of the progress made to date I can either send it to him in letter form or arrange a meeting with the officials so that he can see what has been done up to now.

Inquiries of the Ministry

• (11:50 a.m.)

OIL

PROPOSED TAPS TANKER ROUTE—FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS TO UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. Has the minister since last June made any further representations to the United States government in opposition to the proposed oil tanker route from Valdez, Alaska, to Cherry Point in the state of Washington?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not quite certain about the dates but it is my impression that representations have continued since that time. If they have not, certainly the United States government has a full account of our position and of the adverse effects that we believe will take place if that route is followed. These representations are under study by the United States administration. I have been assured of this by the Secretary of State himself.

[Later:]

POSSIBLE OIL OR GAS PIPELINE FROM ALASKA THROUGH CANADA—APPROACHES BY UNITED STATES GROUPS

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is for the Acting Prime Minister. Have any approaches been made to any government department since last June by any United States group for an oil pipeline or a gas pipeline route from Alaska through Canadian territory?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Not so far as I am aware, Mr. Speaker. May I just add a word to my previous answer. The Minister of the Environment is in Washington today and I am sure will be pursuing the other question with his counterpart.

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TRADE

CANADIAN INITIATIVES AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL RESPECTING CONSULTATION TO AVOID TRADE WAR

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. In light of expressed fears that a major trade war could develop in the western world, is the government taking any continuing initiatives at the international level to bring about trade consultation between the major trading nations of the world?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, such consultations are, of course, going on currently within GATT, within OECD, within the Group of Ten and within the International Monetary Fund. Indeed, it is one of the most serious problems before the whole world trading and economic community and it is being so treated. Certainly there is no necessity for the Canadian government to take any more initiatives than it has taken already. One must include, of course, the fact that we are very prominent in all these organizations.