

Oral Questions

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, I believe the Prime Minister was about ready to answer my question and I wonder whether he could be given an opportunity to answer.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair has recognized the hon. member for Greenwood.

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of the Environment. In view of the fact the report criticizes Canada's delay in getting the regional office for the commission in Windsor functioning after its opening in May, has the Windsor office now been supplied with adequate funds and staff?

Mr. Davis: Yes, I can assure the hon. member that adequate funds are available. It is simply a matter of hiring additional staff which is the question.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

ALLEGED CONFUSION IN NEW POLICIES RESPECTING
FEED GRAIN AND DAIRYING—SUGGESTED PUBLICITY
CAMPAIGN

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

In view of the fact that there is confusion among people in connection with the dairy policy reform and the feed grain policy announced by the government, could the minister inform the House whether he or his department have undertaken or will undertake soon a publicity campaign on this matter? In the affirmative, how are they proceeding? Through radio, television, newspapers or through the hon. minister, or his parliamentary secretary or officials of his department?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, it can be done even with the help of the minister or the hon. member. The meetings are ongoing at the present time with the provincial authorities, and the people in the provinces who handle milk are also concerned about the feed grain problem and program. I do not know what more we can do at this time, but I do agree we probably should be using some kind of advertising program just to state the facts as they are.

[Translation]

FEED GRAIN—PROTEST OF QUEBEC UPA AGAINST NEW
POLICY—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary to the Minister of Agriculture.

In view of the fact that following three recent regional conventions of the Quebec FPW, it was decided that if, by September 15, the temporary policy on feed grains has not been implemented, a march on Ottawa would be organized to urge the government to action, will the minister give the House the assurance that he will make a statement before September 15?

[Mr. Speaker.]

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I recently met with the President of the UPA and other farm leaders from Quebec, la belle province—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Whelan:—and I must say that I found them very reasonable people. They accepted our explanation of the feed grain problem. I told the House last week that there would be an announcement on August 15, that we are shooting for that date. We still are, and they seemed satisfied and ready to accept the minister's explanation.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi, but I think this might be an appropriate moment to remind hon. members that with the large number of members seeking an opportunity to ask questions we should attempt to limit the number of supplementaries. For the moment the Chair recognizes the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi.

[Translation]

DAIRYING—DISCUSSION WITH PROVINCES BEFORE
ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW POLICY

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, I have another supplementary for the Minister of Agriculture.

I should like to know whether he consulted the provinces before announcing his policy on subsidies to dairy producers, and whether the Quebec government has given the minister the assurance that it will freeze retail prices of dairy products for the coming 12 months?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I just said that these discussions are still being carried on regarding the subsidy on milk. They have not been finalized at all.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Lisgar on a supplementary and then the hon. member for Rocky Mountain.

REQUEST THAT STANDING COMMITTEE CONSIDER FEED
GRAIN POLICY

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the hon. member for Bruce who is Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture. Since the Minister of Agriculture indicated it would be a good idea to have more clarification on the whole matter of feed grain policy, I should like to ask the hon. member for Bruce whether or not it would be possible for the government to reinstitute or revitalize, so to speak, the Standing Committee on Agriculture so that we could have the Minister of Agriculture and the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board before us at the earliest possible time?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will have to wait a moment for his reply. The hon. member for