

AGRICULTURE

FARM MACHINERY—IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF BARBER COMMISSION—ACTION TO INCREASE IMPORTS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact farm costs have been going up in the last few months, can he tell us what action is being taken by the government to implement the recommendations of the Barber commission in order to bring down the cost of farm machinery and farm machinery repairs?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): None at the present time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Nystrom: In view of the undertaking by the former minister of agriculture that Canada would import more farm machinery from other countries, would the minister tell us what action has been taken to date on that commitment?

Mr. Whelan: I have met with two ambassadors from other countries who are trying to have us educate our farmers to use different kinds of machinery. Our farmers are not indentured in respect of the use of any kind of machinery. It is up to them to buy it if it is available to them.

COST OF FARM MACHINERY—POSSIBILITY OF INCREASE IN AMOUNT AVAILABLE TO FARMERS UNDER FARM IMPROVEMENT LOANS ACT

Mr. Norval Horner (Battleford-Kindersley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the high cost of farm machinery, is the government considering increasing the maximum amount of \$15,000 now available under the Farm Improvement Loans Act?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): I met with some of the officials this morning, but no decision has been taken on that at this time.

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AIR TRANSPORT

ADVANCE BOOKING CHARTER REGULATIONS—REVIEW BY MINISTER—REQUEST FOR REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE FOR EXAMINATION

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Transport. Has the minister had a chance to examine the regulations proposed by the Canadian Transport Commission regarding advance booking of charters inasmuch as the net effect will be an increase in cost to the travelling public and much more difficulty in making arrangements? There is also the fact that some suggestion has been made that there are inadequate safeguards for the handling of passenger funds. Has the minister had an opportunity to examine the regulations and can he report to the House?

Oral Questions

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think I have already tried to answer this question. The new regulations were published in the Canada Gazette on January 8. These are entirely new regulations. I should like to have some experience in the implementation of these regulations before we make any change. In the meantime, if the hon. member has any case of abuse I would be ready to look into it to see what can be done.

Mr. Mazankowski: In view of the fact that large numbers of the travelling public have made representations to the Canadian Transport Commission and indeed, I believe, to the minister, would the minister consider having the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications examine the air transport regulations so that witnesses from all sectors of the travelling public could be called?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is making a representation to be considered by the minister.

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[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

BILINGUALISM—PAYMENT OF BONDS TO MEMBERS OF PROTECTIVE STAFF

Mr. Gilles Caouette (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Secretary of State responsible for federal subsidies to bilingualism programs.

Can he tell us whether or not he intends to give subsidies to the members of the security staff of the House of Commons?

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

SUGAR BEETS—INTENTION RESPECTING ESTABLISHMENT OF MINIMUM PRICE PER TON AND PAYMENT OF SUBSIDY

Mr. William C. Frank (Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Minister of Agriculture. Is it the intent of the government to establish a minimum price per ton of sugar beets based on today's sugar prices and, if so, is the government prepared to support such a price by a direct cash subsidy if present market prices decline?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, our present stabilization program is still in force. It has not had to be used in the last two years. As long as the world price of sugar stays with that program we are not really that worried about where it is going to go or what it is going to do. I think this is why so many people are anxious to produce sugarbeets.

Mr. G. H. Whittaker (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. Since the Prime Minister publicly supported the resolution on an automatic surtax submitted by the Canadian Horticulture Council and supported by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, can the minister