

Assistance to Apples Blueberry Producers

be unfair to the hon. member, but the impression I get is that he has considered the ruling that the Chair delivered on November 16, found it wanting, and in a way is now appealing, in effect, that decision. I do not think an appeal is possible, either directly or indirectly, from a decision of the Chair. If a ruling is delivered by the Chair on a given set of circumstances, I think it would be highly irregular for the Chair, on the same set of circumstances, to deliver a different ruling two days later.

The hon. member has made much of the ruling of the Chair in regard to statements made outside the House. The hon. member knows even better than I the rulings which have been made on this subject, Speaking from memory now I would refer to the ruling in 1964, I believe, by my distinguished predecessor, Mr. Speaker Macnaughton, on statements made outside the House. I was Deputy Speaker at that time and following these matters with some interest, and my recollection is that a very strong argument was made then by the hon. member for Yukon in which he invited the Chair to make a distinction between statements made outside the House and statements made inside the House.

I might say that the arguments used at that time by the hon. member for Yukon have been used by the Chair on a number of occasions since. The Chair did agree with the arguments forcefully made at that time by the hon. member, and the arguments that he brought to the fore then are applicable equally to the present circumstances. I feel I cannot alter, change, amend or reverse a ruling made on a similar set of circumstances, and that the matter cannot be referred to a committee or put to the House at this time as there is no prima facie case of privilege.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**FEDERAL PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE****TABLING OF COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED FOLLOWING
CONCLUSION**

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, under Standing Order 41(2) I should like to table copies in English and in French of the communiqué prepared by the federal-provincial conference of first ministers which finished yesterday.

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FRUIT**ANNOUNCEMENT OF PAYMENT TO BLUEBERRY
PRODUCERS AND GRANT TO PROMOTE DOMESTIC APPLE
CONSUMPTION**

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, further to my recent statements on the program to provide assistance to agricultural producers, I now wish to advise of programs authorized for blueberries and apples.

Blueberry producers this year received reduced returns and direct payments will be made to them through the

[Mr. Speaker.]

Agricultural Stabilization Board. Data will be collected on sales to distributors and processors and payments of one and a half cents per pound will be made upon proof of sale.

Support to apple producers selling to the fresh market will be provided in the form of a grant for apple promotion. The Agricultural Stabilization Board has developed a program in consultation with the Canadian Horticultural Council and producer groups. The grant will be used to promote domestic apple consumption. Producers now pay a levy for apple promotion purposes. This grant will be used to reduce their levy payments this year and will therefore improve producers' returns.

Details of these programs are going to the producer groups and payments will be made when data has been collected.

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, the statement by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) is most welcome, although rather brief. I hope the support programs are sufficiently large. In complimenting the minister may I say I have some knowledge of the discussions between the minister and representatives of the producer groups and the Canadian Horticultural Council about a support program for apples. I only hope that in terms of dollars and cents payments to the apple industry will be much larger than the statement of the minister today. It is commendable that at long last discussions have been held with producer groups in this country regarding support that is so necessary as far as apples are concerned. This is a basic industry which has suffered in so many ways apart from anything the apple producers could do. I am glad the minister has made this statement and I hope he will give us the details later. I hope that the result in terms of dollars and cents to the industry will be much larger than this statement.

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, in response to the minister's statement, which was received at ten minutes after two this afternoon, my remarks, of necessity, must be both brief and general. Coming from a province which is a major producer of both apples and blueberries I welcome the news that there is to be support for both these products.

The fruit industry of British Columbia, in fact the whole agricultural industry in Canada, is not in a state of vigorous health today. Anyone who has followed the debates in the House of Commons dealing with the problems of grain production facing the western farmers could find little to disagree with in that statement.

Regardless of what kind of promotion we may be able to undertake with this assistance from the Agricultural Stabilization Board, the main problem is the low price of imported apples from Japan and Mainland China which are used mainly in the pie-making industry across Canada.

In addition, the depressing of the price of the local product because of the low price of United States apples to wholesalers has injured Canadian growers even though none of these apples are actually imported. Returns from many agricultural products, including apples, have been reduced. At the same time, many families in Canada are deprived of apples for their children. Perhaps we should