

then only at the request of the Americans, and in the light of the Prime Minister's reservations about sending a bunch of parliamentarians to Washington, will the Prime Minister send a communiqué to Washington requesting an invitation to Canadian parliamentarians?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Does the hon. member suggest I should ask them to invite me, Mr. Speaker?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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AGRICULTURE

HOGS—REQUEST FOR PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAM TO PREVENT FURTHER PRICE INCREASES TO CONSUMER

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that Canadian farmers are being driven into panic selling of hogs, even pregnant sows, because of the catastrophic rise in the price of soybeans which in turn will result in sharp increases in prices paid by consumers for pork, has the minister any concrete proposals to put forward to prevent this happening? If he has any plans would he give us an inkling of what they are?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): I am sure the hon. lady has all the facts and figures in support of what she is saying. There is some evidence of an increase in the slaughter of hogs in Ontario. However, the official count shows no increase yet for the last year. The situation is doubtless the result of the good prices the farmers are getting, and they are culling their herds. There is no evidence of a similar situation existing in Manitoba, Alberta and Quebec. It may be of interest to the hon. member to know that weaner pig prices dropped from \$25 to \$18 last week. She did not say anything about that. Last week, 178 hogs were slaughtered—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I should like to get just a little bit farther than the weaner if I can.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): In view of the fact that the Canadian farmer cannot afford to keep a stock of hogs under present conditions without taking a financial beating, is the minister considering a policy of price support for hogs which would prevent further increases in price to the consumers?

Mr. Whelan: I am considering a feed grain policy for this nation. I am also considering other policies which I hope the hon. lady can get her party to approve when legislation is presented to this House. If I can judge from my experience with that party in connection with the crop insurance bill—it has been before the House for six months and it has not received third reading yet—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: Order. I seek the co-operation of hon. members. We should attempt during the 40 minutes at our disposal to at least complete one series of questioning. We are not making very good progress today.

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● (1510)

[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY

FAMILY ALLOWANCES—UNIFORMITY OF PAYMENTS

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

With regard to the proposals concerning family allowances, will the rate of the allowance payable to a child vary from one province to the other? If so, will there be a maximum?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): The reply to the first part of the question is yes, but I should like to point out to the House—and I am sorry in this regard that the information given by the media has at times been erroneous—that there will be no maximum. We are proposing that the act provide for an average of \$20 per child, in every province; but, if a province uses its prerogative of decreasing that amount to the minimum stipulated, that is \$12, that will automatically mean that the other children will receive much more than \$20 in order to arrive at the average, in each province, of \$20 per child.

FAMILY ALLOWANCES—PROPOSAL THAT BILL BE DEALT WITH BEFORE SUMMER RECESS

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the hon. minister whether he has revised his position in order that this piece of legislation be examined before the summer recess and that new provisions become part of it so that this measure comes into effect by September 1, 1973, at the re-opening of the schools?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Social Welfare): Mr. Speaker, as for the first part of the question, I have already said that this is outside my scope. As for the second part, the answer is no.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

POSSIBLE FEDERAL PROPOSALS AT WESTERN ECONOMIC CONFERENCE TO REDUCE FARM COSTS AND LOWER PRICE OF FOOD

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I had not quite finished, and as I did not get very far with the Minister of Agriculture I will try the Prime Minister.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!