

question. For years the Auditor General has been making numerous reports over and over again. Is the minister satisfied with the progress made by the government in the last year or two as a result of the suggestions made by the Auditor General? Can the minister tell the House his intentions with regard to getting after those things which clearly should be done right away without waiting for all these long processes to take place? Perhaps at the same time the minister could state what the time limit should be on this royal commission and give us his estimate of the cost.

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would read the terms of reference of the royal commission which I tabled in the House a few minutes ago, he would get the answers to most of his questions. With regard to the time-frame, it is to be as expeditious as possible, with a request that there be an interim report at least by the end of December 1977, and so on. It is all in the terms of reference which I tabled. With regard to the cost, I must say I do not have a precise budget. We want to meet with the chairman now that the order in council has been signed. I will try to get the hon. member some information on that.

With regard to what we are doing, this really has to be classified as the old question: Have you stopped beating your wife? The hon. member may not accept it, but on Friday there was tabled in this House a comprehensive progress report which answers most of the questions he posed. I am prepared to take an hour or an hour and a half, if that is what the hon. member wants, and if Mr. Speaker will permit it. I have the document here and I could detail it in this House. I could do it on another occasion.

There are many things. Short of one or two final recommendations to which this royal commission must address itself because of the complexity inherent in those recommendations, we are moving and have been moving on all fronts to shore-up. I will never be able to say, with regard to an organization as large as the government of Canada, that all financial matters are totally and finally under control.

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STATUTE LAW (METRIC CONVERSION) AMENDMENT ACT, 1976

AMENDMENTS TO WHEAT BOARD ACT TO FACILITATE CONVERSION TO METRIC MEASUREMENT

Hon. Robert K. Andras (for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-23, to facilitate conversion to the metric system of measurement.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Order Paper Questions

Mr. Ralph E. Goodale (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: 186, 628, 690, 801, 866 and 881.

[Text]

AGRICULTURE—BUTTER OIL SOLD TO ALGERIA

Question No. 186—**Mr. Crouse:**

1. How many pounds of butter did the Canadian Dairy Commission convert to butter oil to sell to Algeria?
2. What was the dollar value of the Canadian butter converted to butter oil?
3. What was the agreed selling price to Algeria for the butter oil?
4. Was the butter oil acceptable to the Algerian government and, if not, what final disposition was made of it and where was it dumped?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): 1. Five million, four hundred seventy-two thousand, seven hundred fifty-seven pounds.

2. \$5,351,404 Canadian.

3. The Canadian Dairy Commission sold 2,176,588 pounds of this butter oil to a Swiss Trading Company, Agrex S.A., for onward sale to Algeria, but was not party to any selling price agreed between Agrex S.A., and the Algerian Government Agency involved. The Canadian Dairy Commission selling price to Agrex S.A., was U.S. \$1,096 per metric ton free alongside ship at the port of Saint John, New Brunswick.

4. The butter oil was not acceptable to the Algerian Government Agency to whom Agrex S.A., had intended to sell it. The Canadian Dairy Commission has no direct knowledge of any final disposition of the butter oil sold to Agrex S.A., but understands that the butter oil has not been destroyed or dumped and is at the port of Algiers and may be offered for sale by its present owners. The butter oil not purchased by Agrex S.A., has since been sold or committed by the Canadian Dairy Commission for export through other purchasers.

POST OFFICE—OLYMPIC LITERATURE

Question No. 628—**Mr. Dinsdale:**

1. How many pieces of the Olympic literature, *Olympic Coins—1976/Monnaie Olympique—1976* were mailed out?
2. What (a) were the mailing costs (b) is the cost of the prepaid return postage?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Postmaster General): 1. Five thousand.

2. (a) Approximately \$500. (b) Not applicable.

AGRICULTURE—LABELLING FEED CONTAINERS

Question No. 690—**Mr. Hnatyshyn:**

Is the government taking any steps to ensure that feed containers carry a complete list of the digestible ingredients?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): No. The technology of determining digestibility and energy in mixed feeds has not yet developed to the stage that these factors can be made mandatory for feed labelling purposes.