

*Oral Questions*

● (1440)

[Translation]

**AGRICULTURE****AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION BOARD—INQUIRY AS TO  
POSSIBILITY OF ACCELERATING PAYMENTS TO HOG  
PRODUCERS**

**Mr. Jean-Guy Dubois (Lotbinière):** Madam Speaker, my question was for the Minister of Agriculture, but as he is away from the House, I will direct it to his parliamentary secretary. We are aware that last summer, through its Agricultural Stabilization Board, the Department of Agriculture provided assistance to qualified hog breeders and feeders. A great many of them, however, are complaining that payments are being made slowly. I should like therefore to ask the parliamentary secretary if the board has received many applications, how many cheques have already been sent out to the two categories of producers, and if these payments could be accelerated.

**Mr. Marcel Ostiguy (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, I am grateful to the hon. member for his question. Indeed, the two programs which have been implemented by the Department of Agriculture will require expenditures of \$46.5 million and \$6.5 million for hogs and piglets respectively. As far as hogs are concerned, 25,487 applications have been received and 5,998 cheques have been issued. The remaining cheques should be issued before the end of 1980. As far as piglets are concerned, 3,900 applications have been received and the cheques should be sent out within the next two weeks.

\* \* \*

[English]

**SECOND WORLD WAR****KATYN FOREST MASSACRE—REPRESENTATION AT UNVEILING  
OF MEMORIAL**

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. On September 14 this year there was an unveiling of a memorial to the 15,000 Polish officers who lost their lives in 1940 as a result of an execution near the town of Katyn in Poland. At that commemoration there were representatives from the official opposition, representatives from the government of Ontario and the opposition of the government of Ontario, as well as a number of municipal politicians. The federal government had intended to send a representative but at the last minute the plans were changed.

My question to the minister is: on what basis did the government change its mind and decide not to have representation at this very important event; and was external pressure applied to the government which caused it to change its mind?

**Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Madam Speaker, I believe there was representation

by several governments, but that had no influence on the attitude of the government because our long-standing policy has been not to participate in any activities relating to the Katyn forest massacre. I think the fact that the people of Poland at that time were undergoing such traumatic events should alone be sufficient reason to justify that position.

**Mr. Wilson:** Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question. If the government has had this long-standing policy, why did it decide to send a representative to the memorial commemoration, the hon. member for Parkdale-High Park? Why did it change its mind at the last minute, and what governments were pressuring the Government of Canada not to send a representative to that event?

**Mr. MacGuigan:** Madam Speaker, it is my understanding that it was the governments of Poland and the Soviet Union which made representations to us, but I repeat that that had no influence whatever on the long-standing policy of this government, which was established long before such representations were received. Members of Parliament, of course, are free to attend such events on their own behalf and a number of members from this side of the House did so.

\* \* \*

**THE CONSTITUTION****STATEMENTS BY PREMIER OF NEWFOUNDLAND RESPECTING  
FEDERAL PROPOSALS**

**Mr. George Baker (Gander-Twillingate):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Last night the Premier of Newfoundland made some extreme statements, claiming that measures proposed by this government could result in Newfoundland losing control over Labrador and its right to a denominational system of education. Could the Prime Minister assure the House that such is not the case?

**An hon. Member:** Isn't it in the Supreme Court?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, members of the opposition are asking about the Supreme Court. I would point out that the statements are clearly untrue, based not on an interpretation of the courts but on what our resolution itself says. When there are other methods of amending the constitution, we do not propose to use the amending provision; we propose to use the one which is preserved in our resolution by section 53 and item 4 of the schedule. In other words, we cannot change the boundaries of a province without the consent of that province.

**An hon. Member:** A referendum?

**Mr. Trudeau:** That is stated clearly in our resolution, if only Premier Peckford took the time to read it.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Madam Speaker:** The hon. member for Joliette.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker—