

Oral Questions

protein supplement to replace that which is now being lost?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, the answer essentially is yes, but the hon. member should know that perhaps as much as one-third of all fish in fish and chips in the United Kingdom is dogfish.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Bell: Wait until the Queen hears about this.

FEED GRAIN—REQUEST THAT PRESENT COMPETITIVE POSITION OF EASTERN LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS RESPECTING PURCHASE BE MAINTAINED UNDER NEW POLICY

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. In view of the press reports this morning and the rather indefinite replies of the minister this afternoon, can the minister assure eastern livestock producers that they will remain in at least as competitive a position with regard to the purchase of feed grains as at present under any new policy which he will announce?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, if hon. members find my answers evasive, I refer them to some of my earliest answers in which I made it quite clear that I do not intend to make a statement on policy at this point for a number of very good reasons, including the steps to be taken before an announcement can possibly be made. If that leads to evasion when hon. members are asking for a statement where no statement can possibly be made, I will have to plead guilty. I can no more give the hon. member that assurance than I could others because I do not propose to forecast what the statement will be nor, therefore, to try to give assurances to hon. members except to say that I believe we will have a very good policy on feed grains that will treat fairly all producers in all sectors of the country.

RAPESEED—VOTING PROCEDURE IN PROPOSED PLEBISCITE ON INCLUSION UNDER JURISDICTION OF WHEAT BOARD

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Justice who is in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. It has to do with the announced plebiscite the government intends to hold with regard to whether rapeseed should be brought under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board. Can the minister outline to the House what voting procedure will be used to determine the outcome of the vote that will be held this fall?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, a few days ago we appointed Mr. George Turner to consider with the farm organizations the exact form and nature of the poll or vote that will be taken. At the present time he is consulting the organizations in order to bring back an understanding of their views. We will also be asking him to assist with the actual supervision of the poll.

[Mr. Howard.]

Mr. Murta: Can it be assumed at this point in time that such a plebiscite will be carried out along roughly the same lines or in the same way that the proposed plebiscite was initiated two years ago, namely, that rapeseed producers who marketed any crop within the past three years will be allowed to participate?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, the final decision has not been taken. The only assurance I can give the hon. member is that the exact wording and nature of the plebiscite forecast in the bill to which he referred will not be the form in this case.

RAPESEED—SUPPLYING OF INFORMATION TO PRODUCERS PRIOR TO PLEBISCITE

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. In view of his earlier reference in the House to the gathering of information both pro and con on the issue of rapeseed being brought under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board, can he advise the House whether his officials are still gathering information that is opposed to bringing rapeseed under the Wheat Board? If so, will this information be disseminated to the rapeseed producers of this country prior to the plebiscite?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the main work on developing information on the various systems was done by the rapeseed marketing committee. That report has been available to producers for many months in its original form and in the form of a summary produced by a number of organizations. We do not anticipate any specific gathering of additional information. We are considering a form of disseminating arguments on both sides of the question whereby we may be able to assist in the actual distribution of that information while we may rely on the various protagonists for the preparation of it.

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● (1140)

INCOME TAX

ALLEGED DELAY IN ISSUING REFUNDS

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Minister of National Revenue. On May 14 I asked the minister what was the reason for the extraordinarily long delay in Canadian taxpayers receiving their income tax refunds. At that time the minister said they were being processed quickly and that he expected they would be out within two weeks. In view of the fact that was six weeks ago and many Canadian taxpayers have still not received their income tax refunds, can the minister explain why they should be asked to wait so long?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I think that if the hon. member looks back he will see we were talking about so-called clean returns filed on time and without any error. When I