

Oral Questions

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ANGOLA—INTERVENTION BY CUBA AND RUSSIA—POSSIBLE TOPIC OF DISCUSSION WITH DR. KISSINGER AND PROTEST BY CANADA

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister which is really supplementary to the one asked by the Leader of the Official Opposition. In view of the recent statement by the United States Secretary of State, Dr. Kissinger, that the United States cannot remain indifferent to Soviet and Cuban intervention in Angola and that continued intervention could have serious consequences for east-west détente, I should like to ask if this matter was discussed during Dr. Kissinger's visit to Ottawa and if the Canadian government, in the interests of world peace, has sent a note of protest to Russia and Cuba imploring those countries to stop their militaristic imperialism in Angola?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian government has repeatedly—and particularly at the United Nations—made statements protesting this type of foreign intervention in local conflicts. That remains our position and it applies to all countries intervening in whatever conflict. I know of no specific note having been sent to the countries mentioned by the hon. member.

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AGRICULTURE

GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO PREVENT PREDICTED DROP IN FARM INCOME—POSSIBLE DECLINE IN FOOD PRICES

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the report of Statistics Canada to the Agriculture Outlook Conference yesterday that net farm income might drop by as much as 25 per cent next year, can the minister inform the House what specific programs he might announce to prevent such a sharp drop in farm income?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, if I could predict world conditions I would also be able to say what these figures actually mean. Some of the figures given last year were wrong and I am hoping they are wrong again this year. What they said was going to happen last year did not happen.

Mr. Nystrom: A supplementary question. At the same conference the president of Dominion Stores predicted that food prices would rise 10 per cent or 15 per cent during the next year despite the predicted fall in farm income. If that is the case, can the minister assure the House that if farm income is to fall he will see to it that the price of food at the retail counter will also go down?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, if the report given to me is the same as the one the hon. member speaks of, the person he is talking about said it would not be because of what farmers receive for the food but it would be other costs involved in handling that food that would raise the price.

[Mr. Chrétien.]

[Translation]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH FIXED DATES FOR ADJOURNMENTS

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, during this session—and I wish to ask my question to the President of the Privy Council—I put forward a motion that appeared to rally the views of all hon. members concerning the session periods within a year.

My question is the following: can the minister tell us whether he had any consultation about that and whether studies have been made as promised concerning the organization of the business of the House, by taking into consideration the school calendar as far as possible throughout Canada, in order not to experience situations such as the one we are faced with every six months when the time comes to adjourn the House?

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

INCREASE IN PRICE OF CATTLE FEED—PROPOSED REFERENCE TO ANTI-INFLATION BOARD

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Is the minister aware that the cost of some cattle foods and in particular brewery grain, is skyrocketing because certain suppliers seem to be in the process of forming a monopoly and in consequence many calves are being slaughtered at birth because it is impossible to raise them economically? If the minister is aware of this, is he prepared to have it referred to the Anti-Inflation Board for study?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, it has not been brought to my attention that distilled mash or grain is being sold at an exorbitant price but I shall look into it. In light of what the hon. member has said, I am sure the efficient Anti-Inflation Board will investigate.

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TRADE

POSSIBLE REVISION OF CANADA-UNITED STATES AUTO PACT—REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF PARTS INDUSTRY AND PRICE PARITY FOR VEHICLES

Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact that a committee within the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce is studying possible revisions of the autopact, will the minister assure the House that this committee will, as a priority, study carefully the position of the auto parts industry to see if this industry group can be brought in under the autopact in any autopact revisions recommended by the committee?