

*Oral Questions***AGRICULTURE****REFINANCING OF CO-OPERATIVE IMPLEMENTS OF WINNIPEG**

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Madam Speaker, my question is for the flowering Minister of Agriculture, regarding the refinancing of the farmer-owned, Winnipeg-based, Co-operative Implements Ltd. The minister is no doubt well aware of the \$35 million refinancing package which is being put together for this western farm machinery company. It includes the assistance of the three prairie provinces, the organizations within the co-operative movement, and the owners of Co-operative Implements themselves, the farmers. Will the government be announcing its participation in this package, particularly in light of the assistance which was given to companies such as Massey-Ferguson, Chrysler and White?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, the hon. member made comment about the flower I am wearing. This is because of the importance which Agriculture Canada places on the floral industry.

An hon. Member: Is it real or plastic?

Mr. Whelan: It is very real. It is a very important industry. The chrysanthemum show has two more days to run at the Experimental Farm in Ottawa. If the hon. member wants to learn more about what is going on, let him go and see. I am sure he realizes that it always pays to advertise.

When the hon. member talks about Co-operative Implements, he should realize that it would have been closed over three years ago if it had not been for the action of the government in providing an interest-free loan for \$7 million when the other people were not doing very much about it. We had to beg the provinces to come into it. We are negotiating with them on what we think is a very good program for Co-operative Implements. I am not sure whether or not it will go ahead, but we know that over-all there are 3,000 jobs involved and that the money we provided was \$7 million interest free. That money, interest free, amounts to nearly \$3 million, so we have already put \$10 million into that program. We are prepared to ensure, to the best of our ability, that this plant stays in operation.

AMOUNT OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Madam Speaker, the minister's emblems extend to his speeches. By way of a supplementary question I should like to ask the minister to confirm that the amount of the federal government's support will be \$14 million, which was requested, rather than the \$7.5 million previously negotiated. This amount will ensure that Co-operative Implements will continue to operate. Given the support of \$360 million to Massey-Ferguson, Chrysler and White, this seems like a paltry amount to keep a Canadian farmer-owned western implement company going.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, the first part of the hon. member's statement was

rather flowery. I am glad to see that he has come into the picture late concerning Co-operative Implements. I am glad he realizes that there is a Canadian farm implement manufacturing company which is doing a very good job, as far as I am concerned. Their projections have been even above target, in what they said they would do as far as production is concerned. They need some extra financing at this time.

The hon. member made a comparison with what we have done for Massey-Ferguson, Chrysler and White. I am very proud of what the government has done for those companies. But when he makes a comparison, let him be fair. We have actually given the money interest free to Co-operative Implements, which is significantly greater than just guaranteeing a loan; we are actually putting the money there. The provinces only have to do as much as we have done, and they will have no problems.

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HEALTH**REQUEST FOR VACCINATION PROGRAM TO COMBAT RED MEASLES**

Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Hamilton West): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. A disease which is seriously underrated by the public and also by some health workers, as far as morbidity is concerned, and one that can and does cause significant brain damage, is red measles. This serious virus infection is preventable by vaccination. The United States is committed to a national vaccination program, with a goal of completely eliminating the disease arising within that country by 1982. Does the Minister of National Health and Welfare have any plans to stimulate and co-ordinate such a program in Canada where the responsibility for health rests with the provinces?

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, the jurisdiction for implementing such health policy remains with the provincial health authorities. However, the fact is that the National Advisory Committee on Immunization which prepared guidelines for the eradication of measles in Canada strongly recommended that legislation be enacted in each of the ten provinces requiring measles immunization prior to school entry. Unfortunately it has not been implemented in some parts of Canada. I do not have the direct power to do it, so I guess an occasion such as this to tell the public is of value.

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THE CONSTITUTION**RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. He will recall that a couple of days ago I asked him how many provinces have not yet given their consent to withdrawing the