

Oral Questions

That the House instruct the Minister of Transport to disavow the agreement he has signed and to apologize publicly for the offensive action he has taken.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The House has heard the motion of the hon. member. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 43, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent; therefore the motion cannot be put.

now and next Wednesday which will satisfy the dairy farmers in Canada?

Mr. Sharp: I think we have probably had the most successful agricultural policy this country has seen because we have the present Minister of Agriculture.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Sharp: Moreover, as I look around the world, I see no other country which has had an agricultural policy which has been more satisfactory to producers and consumers.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

AGRICULTURE

MINISTER'S INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO STATEMENT ON DAIRY POLICY

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I intended to ask a question of the Minister of Agriculture, but in his absence I will ask the question of the Acting Prime Minister, who probably knows less, if that is possible, about dairy policy than the Minister of Agriculture.

On Wednesday, June 30, the Minister of Agriculture in answer to questions regarding dairy policy—and Lord knows we need a new dairy policy—indicated that if he is going to make an announcement, it would be made next week some time. Remembering that last year the Minister of Agriculture made an announcement during the Easter recess when we could not rebut it and then six months later changed it, can the Acting Prime Minister tell me if the minister intends to make some statement on dairy policy today, or will there not be the required change in the dairy policy?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the minister is not in a position to make a statement on dairy policy as yet.

Some hon. Members: Why?

Mr. Sharp: Because consideration of the matter has not been concluded in cabinet.

Mr. Ellis: I wonder, then, if I might ask a general question of the Acting Prime Minister. Is it the policy of this government to have confrontations with the people of Canada? There have been confrontations with air traffic controllers, with labour, and recently in the matter of—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member has a supplementary question, would he ask it.

Mr. Ellis: If we are not going to have confrontation, will the Acting Prime Minister please ask the Minister of Agriculture to come up with a policy some time between

[Mr. Matte.]

DAIRY POLICY—CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES—REQUEST FOR PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture I address my question to the Acting Prime Minister. The simple statement that we have a good agricultural and dairy policy indicates that the Acting Prime Minister obviously has not been talking to farmers lately.

In view of the statement made by the Minister of Agriculture in this House on June 30, as reported at page 14976 of *Hansard*, in which he stated, and I quote: "Before we make any change we have to notify and discuss this with every province concerned with the dairy issue," I would like to ask the Acting Prime Minister whether this consultation with all provinces has taken place, has the Minister of Agriculture received agreement from all provinces and has he conveyed that agreement, or lack of it, to cabinet?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that consultation is now proceeding.

DAIRY POLICY—FINANCIAL LOSSES OF PRODUCERS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, again to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the statement made yesterday by the Minister of Agriculture at a public meeting that Canadian industrial milk producers are the highest paid milk producers in the world, and in view of the fact that a number of milk producers have had part or complete cheques held back by the Canadian Dairy Commission, was the Minister of Agriculture expressing government policy that these producers, having been encouraged to produce by the Canadian Dairy Commission, will have nothing to worry about and the financial losses they are now facing are of no consequence?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, that is a very argumentative question.