

IMITATION CHEESE

Question No. 773—**Mr. Cossitt:**

1. To the knowledge of the government, is imitation cheese or blends in the butter industry being sold in Canada and, if so (a) will the government take action to put an end to such sales (b) does it consider this a threat to the dairy industry?

2. Does the government have plans to take action in this field and, if so, what are they?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):

1. (i) Imitation cheese is not being sold in Canada.
- (ii) Blends of margarine and butter have been sold for some time in the provinces of Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan.
- (a) (i) Not applicable.
- (ii) The manufacture and sale of such products is within the purview of the individual provinces.
- (b) (i) The introduction of imitation cheese could adversely affect the market for mozzarella cheese, and have other broader and long-term effects.
- (ii) Their sales have helped firms increase or maintain their market for butterfat.
2. (i) The government has been making a continuous study of this product and has served as a source of information to the provinces and other interested parties.
- (ii) To lessen consumer confusion and in the interest of orderly marketing, Agriculture Canada has suggested a standard which could be subscribed to by provinces. No further action is anticipated at this time.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Question No. 774—**Mr. Cossitt:**

Does the Department of National Health and Welfare consider milk or any other dairy product to be a health hazard and does it have any evidence that establishes beyond a doubt that cholesterol contained therein is harmful to arteries and, if not, is it prepared to support the dairy industry by clarifying the subject to the general public?

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): The Department of National Health and Welfare does not consider milk or any other dairy product to be a health hazard. There is no evidence to establish beyond a doubt that cholesterol in milk or other dairy products is harmful to arteries. Based on the available evidence, the Canada Food Guide, published by this department, advises consumption of milk and dairy products as an integral part of a balanced diet.

USE OF GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT

Question No. 779—**Mr. Kristiansen:**

1. Since March 3, 1980, did the Minister of Labour use government aircraft and, if so (a) on how many occasions (b) to what destinations (c) what would be the cost if commercial aircraft had been used?

2. For what reason was commercial aircraft not used?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of Labour):

1. (a) Four
- (b) Calgary-Vancouver-Whitehorse
Winnipeg-Edmonton-Calgary
Montreal-Halifax
Fredericton
- (c) Accompanied by departmental officials, etc.:
Approximately \$2,370
Approximately \$1,020
Approximately \$ 487
Approximately \$ 460
2. No commercial flights available at appropriate times.

HEALTH AND WELFARE—STUDY OF RADON GASES

Question No. 786—**Mr. de Jong:**

Did the Department of National Health and Welfare conduct a study of radon gases in homes and buildings across Canada and, if so, on what date will the minister make such information available to the public?

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, a study was conducted during the summers of 1977 and 1978. A news release was published by the department on January 30, 1978. The results of the study are in press in the open scientific literature. A continuation of the study is planned for 1980 at five centres in the prairie provinces and results will be published when available.

DIAND—NATIVE EMPLOYEES

Question No. 790—**Mr. de Jong:**

1. (a) How many persons are employed by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (b) how many are native and where are they located?

2. (a) How many employees are there in the Saskatchewan region (b) how many are native and where are they located?

3. How many Indians are there in Canada and what is the breakdown by region?

4. (a) What amount does the department spend each year and what portion is spent on administration (b) what amount is administered by Indians?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):

1. (a) Total number of persons employed—6,364
- (b) Total number of native persons employed—1,636

Location of native employees by region: