

what they were doing would be contravening the guidelines, it seems to me the administrator's decision is entitled to be supported.

REQUEST FOR CHANGES IN APPEAL PROCEDURE

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In the *Globe and Mail* of January 29, the Minister of Finance is reported as having made statements to the press indicating that there may be some amendments to the Anti-Inflation Act which would give trade unions the same right of appeal as that enjoyed by the corporation and to remove the necessity of breaking the law in order to get a case before the administrator. I would therefore ask the minister if the government is prepared to introduce two amendments. First, an amendment to provide for the appeal by any party affected by a decision of the Anti-Inflation Board to the administrator and second, an amendment which would allow any person affected by the decision of the administrator to appeal directly to the appeal tribunal?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, what I said on that occasion, in response to the question of a reporter, was that we would give consideration to that point of view to which the hon. member has referred. As I said in response to a question yesterday, we will of course be prepared to give consideration to an amendment of that kind if it appears it would be necessary.

DATE OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT APPEAL TRIBUNAL

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Since the government has not yet appointed the permanent appeal tribunal, which I can well understand in view of the fact the legislation is drafted so cleverly that no one is likely to get a chance to appeal, and since the government has set up an acting appeal tribunal made up of one civil servant and two former civil servants who, with all respect to the gentlemen in question, would not be considered by anyone as being an independent and unbiased body. How soon is the government prepared to appoint an appeal tribunal which will be independent and appear to the Canadian people as being a body unprejudiced, unbiased and divorced from the government bureaucracy?

● (1420)

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, in my judgment the three appointees in question are unprejudiced and unbiased. They have been good servants of Canada and the imputation against them involved in the hon. gentleman's question is totally unjustified.

Mr. Baldwin: They will go back to the civil service when they have finished.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): The tribunal has been established, as the hon. member said. My colleague has proposed that when amendments come forward, the responsibilities of this particular tribunal should be given to the tax appeal board for this purpose. The board would, therefore, be able

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to discharge these responsibilities in addition to those which it has under the tax act. That, I believe, will be in accordance with the views often expressed by the hon. gentleman's leader, that there should not be an increase in the bureaucracy in this regard, which seems to make sense.

Mr. Baldwin: You are afraid to get a judge.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): It seems to make sense to put the matter under the tax appeal board for this purpose.

If I may answer the imputation made by the hon. member for Peace River against the tax appeal board, let me tell the hon. gentleman that they are a devoted and very capable group and I reject totally the suggestion implied in his imputation.

Mr. Baldwin: You are afraid to get a judge.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Baldwin: The people on the government side are experts in shame. The whole party is shameful.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

SUGGESTED ANNOUNCEMENT OF DAIRY POLICY BY MARCH 15

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

Considering that for some months industrial milk producers have been suffering financial losses which in turn unbalance many producers' budgets, is the Minister of Agriculture willing to present the government's dairy policy around March 15, in order to give the producer's union enough time to indicate their views on such policy before the beginning of the dairy year which will begin on April 1?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we met with representatives of the dairy farmers of Canada yesterday. The program will be announced as soon as possible, although I cannot promise the hon. member that it will be very soon. The dairy farmers of Canada know what they must do.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary.

As the minister just said to the House that he met with representatives of the dairy farmers, and as representatives of industrial milk producers made representations to some members of parliament and as it would be in the interest of Canada, of industrial milk producers and of the dairy industry in general that such policy be known as soon as possible, can the minister make a little effort to present this policy before the last day of March?

[English]

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, the main difficulty for industrial milk producers of Canada stems from the world surplus and from surplus production in Canada. We have not