

Africa, but in the specific case in question there were certain elements of the resolution that were objectionable to us.

Mr. Wagner: Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the written answer from the minister, but for the moment would he explain to the House why Canada abstained on two resolutions condemning economic co-operation with South Africa, and what is the government policy with regard to Canadian investments and trade with South Africa?

Mr. Jamieson: It is for precisely the reason I mentioned a moment ago. However, our policy has been quite clear and consistent throughout the years with regard to trade in non-sensitive materials, non-sensitive goods. We have continued to do this with South Africa and there is no change in the situation. Of course, we have not had any restrictions against trade with any number of other countries such as, for instance, the Soviet Union or a number of others with whom we have ideological differences. The only people with whom we will not trade are those against whom the United Nations has a specific embargo, witness, for instance, Rhodesia.

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NORTHERN CANADA POWER COMMISSION

RATE INCREASES—REQUEST FOR STUDY OF ALTERNATIVE PRICING POLICY AND CHANGE IN DEBT STRUCTURE

Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. It concerns inflation about which this government professes concern. On November 20, 1975, in reply to a question of mine the then minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development said that any electric power rate increase imposed on northern consumers by the federal government's Northern Canada Power Commission would have to be approved by the minister. Would the present minister direct the task force which is now studying the power commission to devise an alternative pricing policy which will not create such hardships for the people of the Northwest Territories?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): As I have stated in answer to a previous question, the task force report on power rates in the north will be presented to me next week. I will review the entire question at that time and take into account the suggestions made by the hon. member.

Mr. Firth: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the same minister. Given the fact that residents of the Northwest Territories already suffer the highest cost of living in this country, will the minister propose to cabinet an amendment to the Northern Canada Power Commission Act so that NCPC's huge capital debt will not have to be borne by a relatively small number of northern residents?

Oral Questions

● (1500)

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I would like to look at all the alternatives, and particularly the recommendations of the report, before I choose a solution.

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CANADIAN DAIRY COMMISSION

ALLEGED FIRING OF CHAIRMAN AND RESIGNATION OF ASSISTANT CHAIRMAN

Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. As a representative of one of the leading dairy areas of Canada where milk producers are anxious to see stability and to have confidence brought to the dairy industry, I ask the minister to confirm or deny the well-founded rumour that the chairman of the Canadian Dairy Commission has been fired and that the assistant chairman has resigned.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member will just have to wait a little while because as Minister of Agriculture it is my job to make sure that the dairy commission is run as efficiently as possible.

An hon. Member: Answer the question.

Mr. Whelan: I am not denying that there will be some changes made, but as of this hour no change has been made.

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[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PROCEDURE FOR IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING ADMITTING PUBLIC TO GALLERIES DURING PRAYERS

Mr. Speaker: Order. Yesterday the House passed the motion presented by the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert) pursuant to Standing Order 43. The motion is self-explanatory. It is designed to allow the public to take places in the galleries so that they can attend the reading of the daily prayers of the House.

Still, the motion does not say specifically how its purpose can be implemented. It provides for an amendment to our Standing Orders when in fact the time at which the doors leading to the galleries are opened is set by practice and not by our rules.

In addition, the motion was presented in the form of a recommendation and not an order. Consequently, the Chair would appreciate instructions from the House as to the implementation of the object of the motion of the hon. member for Bellechasse.

To that end, it seems to me we should proceed by asking the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization to look