

Oral Questions

Mr. Whelan: If we had that kind of plan, as we have for some other products, we would not have to worry about beef coming from any place in the world into Canada.

Mr. Mayer: The Minister totally misrepresents what I asked him. I did not say anything about cutting off imports. I was concerned about the price at which it was coming into the country. The reason it is coming in is that the European Economic Community subsidizes it to the tune of about 50 cents per pound. We cannot compete with that. If the Minister continues to allow this, it will cause major problems in the meat industry.

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Mr. Charles Mayer (Portage-Marquette): Mr. Speaker, is the Minister prepared, through his Department, to take this on as a personal initiative? There are provisions under one section of GATT whereby he can, through his Department, initiate investigations to see whether in fact there is hurt in the industry. This will speed up the process so that we do not have to go through the 90-day to 180-day wait to bring on a countervailing duty. If he is prepared to do something within his Department, if he is prepared to instruct his officials to act now, we could do something about beef which is coming into the country at low prices. We are not as concerned about the quantity as we are about the price.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member should be worried about the quantity because there has been an 800 per cent increase over what there was last year for the same period. If he wants to make a comparison with the great free-trading nation to the south of us, he will learn that it only allows 5,000 tonnes of that kind of beef into the United States for 246 million people in a total year.

Mr. Dick: What about you?

Mr. Whelan: If the Hon. Member wants import controls, let him say so. If he wants to go through the system of surcharges and countervailing duties, he should know that we are supporting Canadian cattlemen in that regard, but it is time consuming. They come back on us for compensation under that kind of a ruling. It is a hurly-burly, free-trading world out there. Is he saying that he wants controls on that? Is that what he is saying on behalf of his Party over there? Does he want to stop those imports? In essence, I think that is what he is saying, and I do not disagree with him on that.

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EDUCATION

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL FUNDING

Mr. Walter McLean (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State who, yesterday, expressed his grave concern about the quality and value of post-second-

ary education in Canada. The Minister has received in recent weeks requests for tripartite consultations on post-secondary education support, from the major components of the educational community in Canada, from the Canadian Association of University Teachers and the Canadian Federation of Students, as well as recommendations in the Page-Symons report issued by the Association of Universities and Colleges.

Will the Minister act now to end the Government's confrontational approach and initiate public consultations, which are being called for, on the need for accountability for federal government post-secondary educational funding?

Hon. Serge Joyal (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is speaking from the two corners of his mouth at the same time. On one hand we have appointed Mr. Al Johnson to consult with the various post-secondary educational institutions in Canada. As a matter of fact, at my own request, Mr. Johnson is meeting with representatives of the Official Opposition, with representatives of the New Democratic Party, and with representatives of various associations of teachers and educational institutions in Canada.

On the other hand, as a result of the suggestion of the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands, we have unanimously accepted an amendment to Bill C-12, investing the Secretary of State with the responsibility to report annually to the House on the negotiations with the Council of Ministers of Education on national objectives in post-secondary education.

What does the Hon. Member want? He wants more consultation. We have already had consultation. I said to him in committee yesterday that Mr. Johnson would be reporting to the Government and that the Government would table his reports on policy alternatives to end the stalemate which we have had with the provinces.

Essentially the provinces did not want to pass on the money which Parliament voted last year. This is not due to the priorities of the federal Government. It is due to the priorities of the provinces which have not made post-secondary education the first priority to be served in our country.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONSULTATION

Mr. Walter McLean (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Secretary of State who outlined once again the unilateral approach of the Government. The \$500 per day activities of Mr. Johnson will once again bring a solution to the Government without consultation with the provinces or educational institutions.

Is the Secretary of State fundamentally agreeing with the proposals of Mr. Turner for unilateral federal action in order to bring the provinces and the institutions into line?

Hon. Serge Joyal (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member does not know what the Hon. Member for Kingston and the Islands has been doing in the last month. Due to her own initiative, she brought in an amendment to Bill C-12 which called upon me to negotiate with the Council of