

*Adjournment Debate*

is that it be good and reasonable and long range so that our cattle industry can see an end to short-term, ad hoc, crisis-type legislation. We will support that kind of legislation.

On the other item which I raised in that question last week about the current cow-calf stabilization program for this year, that is, for 1977, when will those pay-out details be announced? Hopefully by now the parliamentary secretary may have some further information. Every calf producer, every calf seller in Canada, I am sure, is anxious to hear details about that program. Will it be announced especially before the end of the year? Last year, of course, the details of the federal fed cattle support policy were not announced until the end of January. We hope it will be a little earlier than that this year. Further, would he hazard a guess as to whether or not there will indeed be a pay-out, since there is the probability that because of higher calf prices there may not be a pay-out under the cow-calf stabilization program for this year.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Yves Caron (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to try and reply to the question the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Hargrave) asked concerning Canadian meat imports for 1978. As the hon. member indicated, the government has provided financial assistance to the beef industry and thus achieved stabilization of cow-calf imports for the past few years. I suggest therefore that the problems faced by the beef industry have been overcome.

As the minister indicated to the House through the throne speech, he will be authorized if necessary by the government to introduce legislation to limit meat imports, already assured of the opposition's co-operation. The government will soon come to a decision concerning beef and veal import quotas, following consultations with the other traditional exporting countries, a decision which the government will make public later.

We anticipate that quotas for 1978 will be approximately the same as in 1977. We have some reasons to maintain quotas as they were in 1977. Under their legislation governing meat imports, the United States will increase their quotas on a minimal quantity with no secondary effect on meat exports from Canada. In addition, meat consumption in Canada for 1978 will likely remain at the same level or even below that of 1977. Therefore it will be necessary to maintain Canadian beef exports to the United States in 1978. Aware of the situation which is confronting the beef industry in Canada, the government is prepared to take the necessary action to help that very important Canadian industry.

Mr. Speaker, as far as the cow-calf breeder program is concerned, regulation on subsidies granted for calf and cow meat will probably be announced next December.

I was happy indeed, on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan), to answer the very important question from the hon. member for Medicine Hat and I hope he is satisfied with that answer.

[*English*]

SOCIAL SECURITY—NEGOTIATIONS FOR RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT ON PENSIONS WITH UNITED KINGDOM—REQUEST FOR REPORT

**Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, I asked a question on Friday concerning the reciprocal agreement on pensions with the United Kingdom. I directed my question to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), and it was answered by the former minister of national health and welfare (Mr. Lalonde) in his position as Acting Minister of National Health and Welfare that day.

I asked the question because I received a press release the day before. It was not one of the ones from the Prime Minister's office, it was merely a red headline; the really important ones come out with gold print on them. This one pointed out in the view of the Minister of Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) what she thought was going to happen due to the signing of the treaty on the reciprocal agreement with Italy. I should like to quote as follows:

● (1812)

The minister stressed that before the agreement can go into effect, Canada and Italy must agree on the detailed arrangements for administering it. Officials of the Department of National Health and Welfare will begin working on these arrangements shortly with their Italian counterparts . . .

On November 18, 1977, I asked the Acting Minister of National Health and Welfare the following:

Has any progress been made with regard to signing a similar agreement with the United Kingdom . . .

In part I received the following answer:

. . . that negotiations with England, the United States and France are still in progress, that the various officials have been holding meetings.

What is the difference between the situations in the United Kingdom and Italy? In both cases officials are holding meetings, and not much else is happening. The minister's answer in the House is similar to the press release—"We are not making a great deal of progress".

There is confusion in the minds of everyone interested in this subject as to exactly what procedure should be taken to make this agreement effective. It took one and a half years to pass the bill in the first instance, and we were assured it would be in effect quickly. There was no mention of a treaty at that time. Now we have a media happening. A media happening has no intrinsic value of its own, but is available because the media are there to cover it.

We have had a recent treaty signing between the President of Italy and the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Trudeau), the result of which is we are exactly where we are with the United Kingdom. This is a game which is being played by politicians to get publicity for an otherwise sterile visit. When the Italian agreement comes into effect, Canada will be faced with some difficulties.

I should like to refer to the press release from the Prime Minister's office, which reads as follows: