

opposite provincial numbers. Somehow, I feel the Créditiste leader is alluding to prices in one particular province, but uniformity is not the case in Canada since each province can control the price of whole milk according to the standards of its own marketing board. That is why the federal government has said that it is willing to pay a 5 cent subsidy provided, in fact, it benefits the consumer and not the provincial governments.

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[English]

GRAIN

COMPENSATION TO PRODUCERS FOR LOSS RESULTING FROM DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EXPORT AND DOMESTIC PRICES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Frank Hamilton (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. In view of the announcement of the freeze on domestic milling wheat at some \$3.25 a bushel, as opposed to the export price of \$5.65 a bushel, will the minister tell the House if producers will be compensated for the \$2.40 a bushel spread between export and domestic prices of wheat, as they will sustain a loss per bushel of \$1.15 even with the maximum subsidy which will amount to over \$60 million a year loss to the western producer.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the compensation to producers is in the assurance that over the long term the domestic price of wheat will not fall below \$3.25, which, as I indicated a few moments ago, was until a few months ago a price higher than we had ever had in the history of Canada.

● (1430)

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF AMOUNT OF SUBSIDY ON WHEAT

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): In view of the representation of the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board, will the Prime Minister give consideration to revising the 25 cent increase in the subsidy to at least \$2 and maintain such a subsidy until such time as world prices fall to a level equal to the present domestic price?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I wonder why the hon. member is suggesting \$2 rather than \$3, \$4 or \$5.

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I asked the Prime Minister a straightforward question. Will he give consideration to raising the amount of the subsidy to the full amount of the difference, \$1.15. I am only suggesting 75 cents in order that Canadian farmers can avoid subsidizing bread prices in the fall? Will the government consider revising the figure to that amount?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member listened attentively to the Minister of Justice in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board, he would understand that this is in the nature of a contract which the government is prepared to make, on behalf of the Canadian people, with the

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Wheat Board. As the minister indicated, the wheat board is making this kind of contract all the time with foreign countries. This is a guarantee of having a minimum price and a maximum price. This is the proposition the government has put to the Wheat Board and which we are confident they will accept.

INQUIRY AS TO ACCEPTANCE BY WHEAT BOARD OF AGREEMENT SETTING MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM PRICES FOR WHEAT

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I think the Prime Minister just answered my question. I wish to ask the minister responsible for the wheat board whether the wheat board has accepted this proposition, whether this is being announced as something the wheat board has agreed to or whether discussions are going on with the wheat board? The Prime Minister announced this matter as though the wheat board had already accepted it.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the announcement of yesterday followed agreement to the general principle and the figures by the Canadian Wheat Board. We left open the question of the term which would be most desirable for final resolution. That is now being resolved.

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe has a supplementary to the second prong of the original two-pronged question asked by the Leader of the Opposition.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR ACTION TO INSURE RECIPIENTS OF WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCE BENEFIT OF INCREASE IN OLD AGE PENSION

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I have a related question for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the fact the minister now has authority from cabinet to make the increase in old age security exempt from inclusion in the war veterans allowance for those over 65, will he take this action and will it be done in time so that the war veterans falling within this category will receive this benefit at the same time as those receiving the increase in the old age security pension?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the government will take steps to see that the veterans get a fair deal.

Mr. Lawrence: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I will defer asking it until he returns.