

Mr. Speaker: Order please. I have some doubts as to the form of the question.

AGRICULTURE

DAIRYING—RECONSIDERATION OF DECISION TO REDUCE SUPPORT

Mr. H. A. Moore (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the opposition of the Association of Dairy Farmers of Canada to the decision to reduce dairy price support by \$10 million, is the minister reconsidering this decision?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we have asked the representatives of the dairy industry and the many organizations concerned to give us their opinions as to the design of a dairy program for the 1970-71 fiscal year based on \$115 million, and they are co-operating in providing us with their assistance in designing this program.

Mr. Moore: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Was there any consultation with the representatives of the dairy farmers of Canada prior to the announcement by the minister?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, usually all of the changes in programs are announced only a day or two before the beginning of the dairy year, which is April. This year for the first time we have advised the dairy industry, and other industries respecting other matters, four months in advance so that they can help us to do the design work on the program.

[Later:]

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture related to the one asked a few moments ago by the hon. member for Wetaskiwin. In reviewing the dairy policy between now and April 1, 1970, will the minister take steps to restore the quotas to the prairie west, representing some four million pounds of butterfat for Saskatchewan, two million pounds for Manitoba and two million pounds for Alberta?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has put the question in the form of a representation which he has to assume will be taken into account.

Inquiries of the Ministry REQUEST FOR REFERENCE OF MATTERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, in view of reports emanating from the Outlook Conference that the 430,000 farmers in Canada may well be reduced to 150,000 in the coming decade, may I ask the Minister of Agriculture to tell us when he will refer some of these matters to the Standing Committee on Agriculture so that they may receive the attention they deserve from the members of this House?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman read the reports of the Outlook Conference or the papers presented there as indicating that the number of farmers would be reduced to 150,000 in the next decade, then I suggest, Sir, that he did not read them very well.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister was: Will he give consideration to referring some of these urgent matters to the Standing Committee on Agriculture so that it can meet and discuss them?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, there will be a number of matters referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture, such as the legislation that will be brought before the House, as well as the Department of Agriculture estimates and a number of other things. However, I think the hon. member realizes that there are a number of committees meeting now and it is not easy for members to find sufficient time to attend all of the committee meetings.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON PROGRAMS TO PREVENT INCREASE

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Has-tings): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the statement yesterday by the Chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission that he considers that by next March unemployment east of Montreal will be unacceptably high, will the minister take the first opportunity on motions to outline what programs he and his department are planning to introduce in the immediate future so that this very serious situation does not develop as predicted by the chairman of the commission? On your feet!

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Yes, Colonel.