

controls on eggs cannot be justified and that insufficient information was given to the public is without foundation?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have not seen what the chairman of the Food Prices Review Board has said and I am not in a position to comment on what she said, but I am reasonably satisfied that there is proper supply-management being put in place at the present time.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, is the minister satisfied that the latest move, of which we were informed in the statement which he rather contemptuously made outside the House on Friday, thus denying parliament a chance to respond, regarding the present closing of the border with the United States will not in fact touch off a costly trade war which could have the effect of further increasing the price of food in Canada because there is already evidence of this in the United States Congress, in the event that we do close the border with the United States?

Mr. Whelan: I said both inside and outside the House that we have followed the proper procedure under our agreements with our trading partners. If someone takes another position, I would like to know his reasons because I think we do have answers for this. I would point out also to the hon. member that we have no supply-management for pork and the price for pork is the highest in the history of our country and in the history of the United States because of lack of supply.

Mr. McGrath: My question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of difficulties with the U.S. government with regard to restrictions on beef imports, and in view of the fact that suggestions have already been made that countervailing measures will be taken by the U.S. Congress—we have that on the word of Senator Kennedy—does the minister intend to go to Washington to discuss this matter with his U.S. counterpart with a view to off-setting any countervailing U.S. measures?

Mr. Whelan: I would think that if Senator Kennedy did say that, he should have considered the embargoes they have placed on pork because we cannot ship it to the U.S. at present. It might even make our situation worse if we could ship more pork to the United States. Our officials went to Washington to discuss the total program we are proposing, and so far as I am concerned nothing contrary to any agreement with our trading partners has been done. What we are doing is very fair.

● (1430)

POSSIBLE EFFECT OF IMPORT CONTROLS ON EGGS AND EXPORT OF BEEF AND PORK TO UNITED STATES—
SUGGESTION MINISTER MEET WITH UNITED STATES OFFICIALS

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, do I take it from the minister's answer that the imposition of import controls on eggs will in no way impair his bargaining power with the United States with respect to our ability to move beef and pork into that market?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, at the present time prices for beef and pork in

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Canada and in the United States are similar. I can say that our counterparts, with whom we are talking in the United States, have taken a realistic attitude toward our proposals concerning beef trade, pork trade and veal trade with that country, and we should be able to announce something in the very near future in this regard.

Mr. Mazankowski: Does the minister intend to meet with the United States officials very soon to see that this matter is resolved in an equitable manner, so that the future of the Canadian beef and pork industry will not be impaired, and so that we will know what the future has in store?

Mr. Whelan: I can only say that trade and economic advisors told me that the price of beef would never be over \$45 per hundredweight during the month of May. It has averaged closer to \$51 per hundredweight. There has been no impairment to the prices we have received for beef, and with the tremendous grazing in western Canada, there is no distressed position among our beef producers at the present time.

Mr. Mazankowski: The minister has obviously ignored the question. I asked him a very simple question. It should qualify for a straightforward answer. Will he meet with his U.S. counterparts to discuss this very important matter which has been confronting us for a number of months?

Mr. Whelan: Top officials in both trade and commerce and external affairs are meeting, and until they request ministerial authority to meet with their U.S. counterparts—

Mr. Mazankowski: Are you going to meet with them?

Mr. Whelan: There is no indication that it has been necessary. I did meet with them in April, and we agreed to follow this procedure. Until this procedure breaks down we will not meet with them, but if it is necessary I will meet with them.

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[Translation]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN OVER 60 ON CAUGHNAWAGA RESERVE—MEASURES TO COUNTERACT

Miss Monique Bégin (Saint-Michel): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Considering that the minister has deemed it necessary to make use of his discretionary powers in favour of Indian women over 60 years of age residing in Caughnawaga who, because of their marriage to white men, had been ordered out of the reservation, does he intend to extend his discretionary powers to other Indian women who are the victims of the same injustice and, in the negative, why not?

[English]

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, this is a matter I have discussed on several occasions recently with Chief