

missioner of Customs that the company had been promised by the previous Minister of Finance, Mr. Benson, that there would be tariff remissions on Michelin tires imported into Canada, will the Minister of Finance inform the House whether such a promise was in fact made and whether that promise is still in effect or whether, as I hope is the case, the government has had enough sense to rescind it?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot accept the preamble to the question because I was not party to any negotiations that might have taken place between my predecessor and Michelin Tire, but I can assure the hon. member that there has been no remission of duty.

CANADA-UNITED STATES—INCLUSION OF MICHELIN TIRE PROBLEM IN DISCUSSIONS

**Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can he tell the House whether the question of countervailing duties and our regional economic policies is one of the irritants in the continuing negotiations that will evidently resume after the vote in the House?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Not as far as I am aware, Mr. Speaker. As my colleague said, this action arose out of a complaint by a United States manufacturer; it was not instituted by the government of the United States.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Does the Secretary of State for External Affairs intend to add this matter to the list of subjects for discussion between the United States and this country when and if he decides to enter into such discussions again?

**Mr. Sharp:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. Like all members of the House, we hope that the question of assistance to various regions in this country will not be frustrated by action of that kind.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

DAIRYING—SUGGESTED INCREASE IN SUBSIDIES

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture?

Since there is an increased demand for dairy products, will the minister advise the Canadian Dairy Commission to increase subsidies for the next dairy year?

[English]

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, we are having a meeting with the Dairy Commission one day this week, at which time this will be discussed.

Oral Questions

QUEBEC—LOANS TO FARMERS—INQUIRY AS TO AGREEMENT WITH PROVINCE TO PAY HALF OF LENDERS' LOSSES

**Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Can he inform the House whether he has signed an agreement with the Quebec government whereby the federal government will pay half of the losses that financial institutions suffer in making loans to farmers in that province.

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** I would have to check, Mr. Speaker, to see what papers I did sign. I have no recollection of such a document.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Murta:** While the minister is checking to see what papers he has signed, I wonder if he could indicate whether a similar program would be available to other farmers in other provinces of Canada?

**Mr. Whelan:** I can say as Minister of Agriculture that any programs under my signature that apply to one part of Canada will apply to farmers in other parts of Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Horner (Crowfoot):** What about Peace River?

[Translation]

FEED GRAIN—REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF SUBSIDIES

**Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

Does he intend to take immediate steps in order to do justice to the Canadian or Quebec farmers, especially those from the Saint-Hyacinthe constituency, who have been waiting months for the \$400 subsidy which has been refused or unduly delayed for administrative reasons?

I see that the matter makes the government members sneer—

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member having asked his question, the minister could perhaps reply.

[English]

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** I know that you, Sir, are personally aware of some of these problems in other parts of Canada than Saint-Hyacinthe. I am sure the Chair is aware of how just the Department of Agriculture has been and will be in dealing with them, and you can be sure we will deal with them in a just and fair manner.

• (1420)

[Translation]

**Mr. Wagner:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question.

Until such time as an adequate bill is passed, does the minister intend to take steps to help the Quebec farmers, specially those of Saint-Hyacinthe, who face an unbelievable high increase in the cost of feed grains in the province?