

Oral Questions

tions. In the case of the Haitians in Montreal, a matter of considerable debate, the problem is that many, if not most, of them came here illegally, are in Canada illegally, and are subject to Canadian immigration law. It has nothing to do with the fact that they are French-speaking or from what source they came.

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FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS**MEETING WITH PREMIERS OF PROVINCES—FEDERAL PROPOSALS TO CONTROL HEALTH CARE COSTS**

Mr. Heward Graffey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. With the spiralling increase in the cost of the multibillion dollar health care joint program with the provinces which is a leading inflationary matter in this country right now, with a 15 per cent annual increase, I should like to ask the minister if this important matter was brought up with the provinces yesterday in the discussions because, as the minister knows, the inflationary rate of the health care costs means that many of the services are ineffective or non-existent today.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I do not disagree with the premise advanced by the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi. It was not discussed yesterday. It might well be a subject of conversation at the meeting of the ministers of finance of the provinces and the federal government on December 9 and 10. The hon. gentleman will recall that the federal government, under the leadership of the former Minister of National Health and Welfare, now Minister of Labour, by his successor, by the present minister and by myself, tried to devise with the provinces some formula to put some cap on the escalation of the health costs.

Mr. Graffey: Mr. Speaker, I have a further supplementary. Yesterday I posed a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare and he could not assure the House this subject was on the agenda for the health ministers in the future. My question to the Minister of Finance is: since this government imposed on the provinces the kind of medicare program we have today, what initiative does the federal government intend to take to clear up this matter and when will proposals be made so that these costs can be brought under control.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, in the last two or three years to my direct knowledge within the responsibility of the portfolio I hold, the federal government came up with several proposals each of which were rejected by the various provinces. I agree that the subject is vital, is still worthwhile exploring, and we will continue to take initiatives.

[Mr. Andras.]

AIR TRANSPORT**CRASH OF PANARCTIC AIRLINER—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON CAUSE**

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Does the minister have any further information concerning the cause of the accident which occurred on Melville Island involving the serious crash of the PanArctic airliner.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker. At this moment I do not know anything more than the hon. gentleman knows through the newspapers. There are only two persons who survived. We have some people in Melville trying to find out exactly what happened, the cause of the accident.

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AGRICULTURE**PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF ALL-VEGETABLE WEINERS—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In light of the apparent disagreement and confrontation between the minister and his colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, who is now apparently supported by the Minister of National Health and Welfare regarding the introduction of all vegetable weiners and other simulated meat products, I wonder whether the Minister of Agriculture can now tell the House if this disagreement has been resolved or if he wishes to make his usual denial of disagreement will he tell us whether the introduction of these products is imminent?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, so far as I am concerned discussions are continuing between the departmental officials of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and the Department of Agriculture to ascertain whether they can come to any decision concerning the wording so that the consumer really understands what is being purchased and so that false names are not used in advertising it as a meat product. I do not think we have any objections. I have talked to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs about this to see whether some workable agreement can be made.

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● (1440)

GRAIN**WHEAT AND BARLEY—POSSIBLE INCREASE IN INITIAL PRICES**

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, a question for the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. Having regard to the wide discrepancy between initial prices for wheat and barley delivered under the auspices of the Canadian Wheat Board and local feed prices within various areas of western Canada, as well as