

Agriculture

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimity; therefore the motion cannot be put.

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AGRICULTURE**ANNOUNCEMENT OF PURCHASE OF TURKEYS BY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS BOARD**

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, because of the questions that have been raised on this matter in the House, I am pleased to announce that the Agricultural Products Board has invited tenders for a total of 3,600,000 pounds of eviscerated turkey. The purchase price ranges between 33 cents and 40 cents per pound. Since these birds must be of current kill it is anticipated that the purchase will have a favourable impact on producer returns immediately.

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for the announcement he has made about the government's purchase of turkeys. I hope it will bring about a slight rise in price to the producers. There may be some difficulty because the Agricultural Products Board has stipulated that the turkeys have to be fresh killed rather than frozen even though there is an abundance of frozen turkeys in storage. A good deal of the product has gone to market and those who kill fresh turkeys have regular customers for whom they have to keep turkeys available. This may make it difficult for the program to be of as much help as it would have been if it had been announced sooner and if frozen turkeys had been included. However, for what has been done we are thankful and we hope it will be helpful.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Fraser Valley West.

An hon. Member: Here is a real turkey.

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I heard a heckler suggest that I was a real turkey. I would like to point out that I am also tender.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: The member for Gander.

Mr. Rose: In responding to the Minister of Agriculture's announcement about turkey tenders, Mr. Speaker, I am reminded of the broiler tender about three or four months ago. In that case it was felt that a number of provinces did not have a fair opportunity to bid because of the nature of the tender and the lack of adequate notice and information on the ultimate destination to the producer provinces concerned. I understand that this tender is to be applied to support the price of the product. Ultimately, whether it is exported by the government is another matter. I am certain this announcement will be welcome news to those provinces with surpluses. I am confident that the government will see fit to look at all the provinces that may have surpluses and give them each a fair and equal opportunity to bid on this tender call. I say that because I sincerely do not feel that this happened in the previous situation regarding broilers.

[Mr. Speaker.]

[Translation]

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, for once I wish to congratulate the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson). Once is not too much. He just announced really good news for turkey producers. I am sure this contract will also have favourable effects on other categories of farmers.

The announcement of a sale of 3,600,000 pounds of turkey is indeed good news and I am convinced that the producers will greatly benefit from it and their income will increase substantially; I am very happy for all producers whether they are in the west or in the east.

In conclusion, I hope that similar transactions will be announced in the near future concerning the sale of pork meat, because hog producers are running into difficulties—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I take the liberty of interrupting the hon. member to remind him that comments following a statement by a minister should be restricted to the subject referred to by the minister. I am under the impression that we are discussing turkeys instead of hogs and I trust the hon. member will restrict his remarks to that major subject.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): I stand corrected, but in view of our concern for all producers I express the hope in closing, that the same policy applies to other groups of producers.

Once more I congratulate the Minister of Agriculture.

[English]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY****WAGE AND PRICE CONTROLS—PRESENTATION OF SPECIFIC PLAN TO LABOUR AND MANAGEMENT FOR CONSIDERATION**

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: The new leader.

An hon. Member: Where is your leader today?

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, let the record show that we on this side of the House are quite happy with and enthusiastic about our present leader.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Benson: Who is he?

Mr. MacEachen: Where is he?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Hamilton West has the floor.