

Inquiries of the Ministry

after he had announced his new dairy subsidy program, the milk processors upped their transportation charges and the farmers were not benefiting from the new policy. The minister at that time stated that in a few days he would report to the house with respect to contemplated government action in this regard. I would ask the minister if he is now ready to report to the house.

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, in the province of Quebec there appear to have been some examples of the situation the hon. member referred to. As to the question of the manufacturer concerned raising transportation charges, this does not come within the ambit of federal authority. There is no federal authority to prevent manufacturing plants from raising transportation costs.

As I indicated when I announced the program, the federal share of the subsidy program enables the manufacturers to pay \$3.25 per hundredweight. It is up to the producers to organize themselves to prevent the kind of action they object to, and it is within the provincial ambit of authority to act if they so wish.

Mr. Graftey: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In future when the government designs a dairy subsidy policy, will it make sure that this policy is fitted to the needs of the individual farmer? I am sure the government wishes to benefit the individual farmer.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This question is rhetorical.

Mr. Graftey: Should this matter not be of benefit to the farmer, to the individual?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

*[Translation]***ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE****REQUEST FOR ROYAL COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE ORGANIZED CRIME**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice.

Could he tell the house whether he has received recently a request from the Quebec minister of justice for a nation-wide royal commission on organized crime? If so, will the minister take action on such request?

Hon. Lucien Cardin (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, personally I have never received any formal request from the Quebec minister of justice regarding a royal commission on organized crime.

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell us if his contacts with the provincial government at Sorel recently were close enough to receive an informal request?

Mr. Speaker: This question is out of order.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has not been accepted. The hon. member cannot therefore continue to speak on a question ruled out of order.

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, my question does not follow that of the member for Lapointe but rather that of the member for Chapleau.

[Later:]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Justice?

A little earlier the minister told the hon. member for Chapleau (Mr. Laprise) that no official request had been received from the province of Quebec to set up an inquiry on organized crime. However, at the time of federal-provincial conferences, and more specifically at the last one between the ministers of justice of Canada, was there not talk of setting up such an inquiry to discover and hunt down organized crime in Canada?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is putting forth an argument and asking a question dealing with events which occurred some time ago already. I do not think the question can be put in such a way.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. With all due respect—and you know how respectful I am—the Minister of Justice said a little earlier that he had not received any request. Well, I am just asking him if that matter was discussed at the last federal-provincial conference.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The first question was in order and the minister answered it. The second question is not and the minister should not answer it.