

*Oral Questions*

can hardly see how we could look forward to implementing such a program before January 1, 1974.

[English]

POSSIBLE LOWERING OF AGE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR OLD AGE PENSIONS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that there was not any reference in the orange paper this afternoon to lowering the pension age to 60 years, I would like to ask whether or not he is still considering this, as he mentioned before the Standing Committee on National Health and Welfare?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, if during the Easter recess the hon. member can take the time to read the whole paper he will see that certain questions are raised with regard to that problem. That question is not ruled out in the working paper.

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[English]

INCOME TAX

ALLEGED DELAY IN COMPLETING RETURNS BY TAX CONSULTANTS—REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR FILING

**Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. In light of the fact that some income tax consulting firms have stated that they will not be able to complete a large number of the income tax returns entrusted to them, and in light of the fact that taxpayers will be the ones to suffer from the delays caused by these firms, can he assure the House that he will extend the April 30 deadline for returns, or that at least he is seriously considering that possibility?

**Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member did not hear my answer, a couple of days ago, to the hon. member for Palliser. I indicated that this course had been considered, but that we did not feel it was desirable. I would point out that there are certain other ways for people to avoid penalties and interest. It is quite simple, really.

Hon. members might be interested to know that already close to 7 million Canadians have filed their returns, and more than 2 million have already received refunds totaling some \$300 million.

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

SUGGESTED EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR FILING TO PERMIT FARMERS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SYSTEM OF AVERAGING

**Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer):** As a supplementary question, in view of the fact that farmers have to file their income tax returns on time every year in order to take

[Mr. Lalonde.]

advantage of the system of averaging, would the minister extend the April 30 deadline in case of late filing by farmers, due to the lateness and complexity of recent tax changes?

**Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, the same information as I gave to the hon. member for Palliser applies to all taxpayers including farmers, but it should be noted that it is not the T1 form but form T2011 which must be filed by April 30, so far as the right to average is concerned. And of course where the farmer files a return with estimated figures by April 30, and his T2011 form by the same date, based on estimated figures, there should be no problem.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

ALLEGED IMPORTATION OF CATTLE CONTAINING DIETHYLSTILBESTROL—GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Agriculture.

In view of the fact that, to protect the health of Canadian consumers, the federal Department of Agriculture has since last January 1 banned the use by beef producers of DES, or diethylstilbestrol, as a stimulant to the growth of slaughter animals, can the minister say if he knows that we are now importing from the United States beef containing DES? If so, what does he intend to do to improve the situation?

● (1540)

[English]

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, it is a fact that beef in the United States contains DES. We know that Canadian users are still using DES and Canadian beef still contains DES. It might be of interest to note that the import of cattle into Canada this year at this time is about one third what it was last year.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There are a number of hon. members seeking supplementaries on different questions. The Chair will first recognize the hon. member for Richmond on a supplementary, then the hon. member for York-Simcoe has a supplementary to a previous question and then the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

[Translation]

**Mr. Beaudoin:** I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Since the hon. minister did say that Canadian users are still using DES and that his department did ask that DES be no longer used as a stimulant for the growth of animals, can the hon. minister say what he intends to do to put a stop to it?

[English]

**Mr. Whelan:** Well, Mr. Speaker, we have worked very closely with the United States and we have already allowed the use of Ralgro for implant by Canadian beef producers which has the same effect on the cattle. We are hoping that the United States will make an announcement