

Agriculture

last Friday and were ordered to have it completed by today.

On election to this position exactly one year ago today I assumed it was to last for more than one year. In fact, I assumed that the job would last until I was defeated in a subsequent election, until I resigned, or until I died. So far as I am aware, none of these events has occurred. I would suggest that this action constitutes a breach of my privileges and I ask you Mr. Speaker, to order it stopped.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the hon. member has a very valid question of privilege. If I were Caesar I would say: let the wall come down. But I will only say that the matter will be looked into. I am sure there must be a misunderstanding somewhere. The hon. member can count on my cooperation to ensure that the matter will be looked into forthwith and I will report to him within the next few minutes.

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● (1430)

AIR CANADA**DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE BETWEEN SUDBURY AND TIMMINS—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION**

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, in view of the severance of Air Canada's service between Sudbury and Timmins, and also in view of the CTC's refusal to make a decision until December 31, 1973, regarding an alternate carrier, and in view of the hardship and inconvenience this places on residents of Northern Ontario, I ask leave of the House, under the terms of Standing Order 43, to move, seconded by the hon. member for Brant (Mr. Blackburn):

That this House instruct the Minister of Transport to order Air Canada to maintain passenger service between Sudbury and Timmins until the CTC makes its decision.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's motion requires unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimity.

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AGRICULTURE**GOVERNMENT POLICIES RESPECTING GRAIN AND CATTLE—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION**

Mr. Ken Hurlburt (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity, under Standing Order 43. Because of the distress, disruption and confusion caused to the grain farmers and cattlemen of Canada by federal government policies devised and implemented by academics with no practical experience on the land, I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Towers):

[Mr. O'Connor.]

That the government institute an internship program whereby academics who are devising and setting agricultural policy be required to spend at least two years on a farm, ranch, or feed lot every seven years so as not to lose touch with the practical problems of farming and new developments in the agricultural industry.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: The motion is proposed under Standing Order 43. As such it requires unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

ENERGY**VOLUNTARY PRICE FREEZE ON PETROLEUM PRODUCTS—EFFECT OF INCREASE IN PRICES IN QUEBEC BY ONE COMPANY**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources arising out of the announcement of the Prime Minister on September 4 that a voluntary price freeze would be imposed or adopted with regard to petroleum products in Canada except to the extent where, to the satisfaction of the minister, an increase in the cost of imported crude warranted an increase. I would like to ask the minister whether the increase announced yesterday by one Canadian company for prices in Quebec constitutes a breach of the freeze, and whether the freeze now stays in place?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, in our view the announcement yesterday by the company does indeed constitute a breach of the freeze. The company had indicated its intention to do so. We specifically requested the company not to do so, and that it should await a government decision in this regard. I anticipate being able to make an announcement to the House in this regard on November 1. I regret that the company has not pursued the request that we have made, which has been honoured by all other companies, not to increase prices either east or west.

EFFECT OF LATEST INCREASE IN PRICE OF VENEZUELAN CRUDE ON PRICE FREEZE

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated recently that, within a matter of weeks, the most recent increase in the price of Venezuelan crude imported into Canada would have a substantial impact on retail prices in Quebec and the Maritimes. I would like to ask him whether this indicates that the government is abandoning the freeze altogether