

Oral Questions

Defence, however, is on record in *Hansard* at page 11402 as saying an extra \$111 million must now be added to the cost of the LRPA to cover interest payments on interim financing. Can the minister advise the House who is providing such interim financing and to whom is the \$111 million in interest being paid?

[Translation]

Mr. Goyer: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Defence could answer this question. Unfortunately, this does not fall within the realm of my responsibilities.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE**SUGGESTED CURTAILMENT OF IMPORTS OF MILK PRODUCTS—
GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. John Wise (Elgin): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture and it relates to the dairy industry and its associated problems. In a recent speech to dairymen in Uxbridge, the minister gave an indication that he was looking into the possibility of cutting off imports of milk products, which were being heavily subsidised by exporting countries. This is encouraging news, and since the situation referred to contributes largely to our own domestic surplus position, could the hon. gentleman give us some indication of his progress in this regard?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): I understand meetings are to take place next Tuesday to discuss the subsidies which vary from week to week and sometimes from day to day on dairy products, the specialty cheeses to which I was referring. We have made a decision, and my colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce announced recently there would be no increase in the 50 million pound quota. Since then, we also decided that we would be reviewing the subsidies, as has been done in the United States where they have been successful in removing the subsidies from cheese products entering that country in 90 per cent of the cases.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**RETURN OF SPENT FUEL FROM NUCLEAR REACTORS
ABROAD—ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH
DISPOSAL AND STORAGE**

Mr. Bob Wenman (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the minister's statement with reference to the Korean reactor that we have not required the spent fuel to be returned to Canada—that we did consider such a course seriously but abandoned it because of the environmental implications—what are the environmental implications of returning the spent fuel to Canada?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Well, Mr. Speaker, the question which has been put did not actually arise in the form in which it had originally been considered, because the Koreans decid-

[Mr. McKinnon.]

ed not to proceed with the acquisition of a reprocessing plant.

Mr. Wenman: Having regard to the agreement with India presently under discussion, may I ask whether spent fuel from that reactor will be returned to Canada for reprocessing to make sure that Canadian material will not be used to produce further nuclear explosions. Further, can environmentally sound methods of the storage and disposal of waste be found?

Mr. MacEachen: I think I should explain to the hon. member, to avoid misunderstanding, that while the issue, as an issue, disappeared because of the decision of the government of South Korea not to acquire a reprocessing plant, the main reason for not insisting upon the particular provision referred to was that upon analysis it was not felt to be anything but a marginal safeguard. In other words, even if this particular provision were insisted upon it would be possible for a country wishing to do so to proceed to make a bomb. It was not an important item in the system of safeguards. We have no such line of discussion at work with the Indians at the present time.

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● (1500)

CONSUMER AFFAIRS**JUSTIFICATION OF INCREASE IN PRICE OF BREAD BY
McGAVIN TOASTMASTER**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Yesterday the Anti-Inflation Board announced that it would permit McGavin Toastmaster, a subsidiary of Labatts and Ogilvie Flour, and Weston Bakeries to raise the wholesale price of bread by one cent. This means an increase in the retail price of two cents for Weston, which owns both the bakery and the supermarket. In view of the preliminary Food Prices Review Board study, which found that concentration in the food industry has resulted in Canadians paying 4 per cent too much for their food, would the minister explain how this increase is justified; and if the minister cannot do so, would he ask the Anti-Inflation Board if it will give an explanation to the public, in view of the public's concern that price increases are not being restricted by the board?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): My answer to the first part of the question is no, to the second part, it is yes.

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AGRICULTURE**INQUIRY WHETHER PRIME MINISTER WILL MEET MILK
PRODUCERS**

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, a few minutes ago the Prime Minister answered my colleague from Champlain who asked him whether he was prepared to meet the farmers and the milk producers