

whether Canada is considering providing additional aid, such as fertilizer and high energy agricultural input aids, besides grain?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, dealing with the first part of the question, I hope members of the House noticed that when my colleague made his statement in Rome, he said that physical amounts of food are needed, not money. That is why Canada undertook to supply one million tons of grain every year for three years, instead of so many millions of dollars. That is the most practical response we can make. We are also pledging additional money to help in supplying other products which we may not be in the position to supply physically ourselves but which may be needed.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

INCREASE IN PRICE OF SUGAR—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO PROTECT CONSUMER

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. An Ottawa man called the office of our parliamentary leader yesterday to say he had purchased a 10-pound bag of sugar in Ottawa one morning this week for \$5.49 and had returned to the store one hour later to find that the price had jumped to \$6.29, with no price being posted on the sugar, and as the price had gone up by 80 cents in one hour, can the minister indicate what action he is taking to protect consumers from this type of price gouging. Can he say whether he plans to take action to overcome the excessively high price of sugar in this country?

● (1430)

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I deplore the fact that the price of sugar has increased so much. The government will probably announce soon its sugar policy. As for the profiteering mentioned by the hon. member, I plan to introduce a bill very soon and I hope that this time the hon. member and his party will support it.

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[English]

TRADE

EXPIRATION OF INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO RENEGOTIATE AGREEMENT OR NEGOTIATE WITH CUBA

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. As the international sugar agreement expired in December, 1973, what action has the Canadian government taken in trying to renegotiate that international agreement? Can the minister also tell the House whether he is negotiating a bilateral agreement

Oral Questions

between Cuba and ourselves for a guaranteed supply of sugar for this country.

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions aimed at getting the international sugar negotiations under way again. I cannot give the hon. member an up-to-date account of the status of those negotiations but I will be pleased to make inquiries and give that information to him and to the House.

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a final supplementary question. As we import almost no sugar from Cuba, can the minister say whether he is involved in negotiations with that country in order to supply people in this country with Cuban sugar which would be guaranteed as to price and supply.

Mr. Gillespie: No, Mr. Speaker.

An hon. Member: Why not?

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[Translation]

AIRPORTS

ST. SCHOLASTIQUE—INQUIRY AS TO MEETING WITH DELEGATION OF EXPROPRIATED PARTIES

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Public Works and the Minister of Transport.

At midday, a fairly important delegation of expropriated people from St.-Scholastique asked the government to review their requests. They do not demand preferential treatment, but merely ask to be treated on an equal basis with the people from Pickering. May I ask if the government or the ministers concerned meet at noon-time with the representatives of that delegation, Mrs. Lafond and Mr. Raymond, and if they agreed on some sort of agreement to ensure fair treatment for the expropriated people from St.-Scholastique?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, expropriation matters in St.-Scholastique are obviously under the jurisdiction of my colleague, the Minister of Public Works. As for the number of people from St.-Scholastique whose situation has not been cleared yet, I think there are hardly a hundred left out of the original 3,000. All other cases have been settled, either through court decisions, or by mutual agreement, and I might ask my hon. colleague the Minister of Public Works if he believes people have been treated unfairly.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

The Minister of Transport says his colleague should answer my question. I would therefore like to hear the answer of the Minister of Public Works.

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, all I can tell the hon. member is I shall be meeting that delegation next Friday.