

experiencing a serious shortage of milk in their efforts to supply markets waiting for cheese?

● (1142)

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice.

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TRADE

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL AIR SHOW—BENEFITS RESULTING THEREFROM

Mr. Alex Patterson (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Each year, the Abbotsford Air Show Society sponsors an aerospace symposium in Vancouver and the international air show at Abbotsford. Attendance runs in the neighbourhood of 135,000 to 150,000 for the three-day show. Boeing Aircraft and Lockheed participate very willingly in the show.

Will the minister make representations to de Havilland Aircraft alerting them to the possibility of commercial and publicity benefits to Canada as well as to international trade? At the present time, de Havilland has refused to co-operate in plans for the international air show.

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I will bring the hon. member's representation to the attention of management and the board of directors of de Havilland and see whether we can convince them to take part in the Abbotsford air show.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

REASON FOR BEEF PRICE INCREASES

Mr. Paul E. McRae (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Notwithstanding the inevitable and, I believe, justified increase in beef prices and the need for a more stable meat market, the increases seem excessive at the retail level.

Is the minister monitoring this sector to see whether the increases are in excess of what is justified by farm price increases? Is there any evidence that the sharp rise in prices is also related to the disappearance of controls on the processing and retail side of the industry?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): As I answered in the House a few days ago, we are monitoring this situation. We are very concerned about it. I intend to have further discussions with other ministers and officials shortly.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

INQUIRY WHETHER DOCUMENT CONTAINING PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE HAS BEEN PREPARED

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister.

This morning a daily newspaper reports that the Prime Minister is ready to give Canada a new constitution in 1981. According to an original document, on the basis of reliable sources, it is a 400-page document which has been discussed by the cabinet and is entitled: A Time for Action. Could the Prime Minister tell the House whether this document has been drafted and completed and whether it represents the constitutional proposals? What information could the Prime Minister give us on the veracity of such a document?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I did not read about the document in the newspapers mentioned by the hon. member, but I announced yesterday and several times in the House and at press conferences that the government would in fact table in the House some proposals on national unity and the constitution before the end of the session. So the hon. member may expect such tablings in the course of next week.

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Considering that this document will certainly be of interest to the Canadian people, will it be made available for public consideration or will it be made available only to cabinet ministers or to government members?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the document will have the widest distribution possible.

[English]

ALLEGED LEAK OF SECRET DOCUMENT

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Is the Prime Minister in a position to indicate to the House whether this leak was inadvertent, or was it a deliberate leak? If so, has he consulted the Minister of Justice about taking proceedings under the Official Secrets Act?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it was inadvertent as far as the government is concerned. I would not be surprised if the other side deliberately leaked some secret documents; they often do.