

Oral Questions

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

SUGGESTED INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER
DOMINION STORES ADVERTISING MISLEADING

Mr. Ed Nelson (Burnaby-Seymour): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the fact that today's advertising by Dominion Stores claims that Dominion Stores has "spearheaded an industry-wide downward spiral of pricing" at this time, is the minister prepared to investigate this statement in order to determine whether or not it constitutes misleading advertising, as articulated by the Criminal Code?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will draw the hon. member's question to the attention of the officials responsible for the administration of this part of the Combines Investigation Act, and we will wait to see what the result of the investigation may be.

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FISHERIES

PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON ICE CONDITIONS,
FOREIGN FISHING FLEETS AND LOCATION OF WRECKS
AND OTHER OBSTACLES

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the pressing need for improved ice surveillance in northern fishing waters as well as for monitoring the location and numbers of foreign fishing fleets and the provision of charts showing the exact location of wrecks and other bottom obstacles, has the minister taken any steps to provide this information to Canadian fishermen through the Bedford Institute of Oceanography?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I think I should point out to the hon. member that responsibility for the Bedford Institute, except in one respect, is no longer with my department. I would have to examine the question of to what extent I or my colleague can respond to it.

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• (1450)

AGRICULTURE

HOGS—REPRESENTATIONS FOR FORMATION OF
NATIONAL MARKETING AGENCY

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Has he been approached by any sizeable group of pork producers with the idea of forming a national marketing agency for hogs?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I met a group in Manitoba that presented a paper to me. If that is the group of which the hon. member is speaking, we are studying their submission. They agreed

[Mr. Lang.]

that their plan would have to be a national plan and naturally it would be a plan that all hog producers in Canada would have to approve.

Mr. Murta: In view of the fact the minister has stated in various speeches that hog producers have shown an interest in a national marketing agency, is he just echoing his own wishes that this is the kind of thing he personally would like to see?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Whelan: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I say that the hog producers made their representations to the national marketing council, not to me. They have voiced these views to me.

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GRAIN

POSSIBILITY OF INCREASE IN INITIAL PRICES

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. In view of the fact that the selling price of grain has been increasing in the past months, is the Wheat Board going to raise the initial price of grain paid to the producer?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the initial prices for wheat, oats and barley were all raised during the month of October.

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CANADA PENSION PLAN

INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATION TO EXCLUDE OLD ORDER
MENNONITES FROM COMPULSORY PAYMENTS

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Health and Welfare perhaps I could address my question to the Minister of National Revenue. In view of the fact that some time ago the government gave assurance that legislation would be introduced to exclude Old Order Mennonites from compulsory payments under the Canada Pension Plan, contrary to their religion, can the minister assure the House that legislation will be presented at this session to put an end to this form of threat to religious freedom?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue): I will be glad to consult with my colleague the Minister of National Health and Welfare and the House leader on this matter, Mr. Speaker.