

AGRICULTURE

EFFECT OF GRADING OF IMPORTED UNITED STATES BEEF ON CANADIAN MARKET—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. William C. Frank (Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to that directed to the Minister of Finance by the hon. member for Kent-Essex. I direct it to the Minister of Agriculture. As a result of the abnormally high import of United States cattle into Canada, Ontario in particular, which is graded under U.S. standards as No. 3 and No. 4 but has been railgraded in Canada as No. 1 and No. 2, does the minister have any definite plans to immediately offset this practice which is further jeopardizing our Canadian beef market price structure?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am well aware that cattle from the United States being brought here for slaughter do not meet the high quality standards we have set. They are of an inferior quality to Canadian beef. I just received the final reports on grading in Canada. When buying American beef, people are buying a lot of fat; I can tell you that. I have submitted a paper to my colleague to be considered tomorrow.

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FLOODS

HIGH WATER LEVELS OF GREAT LAKES—SUGGESTED ASSISTANCE OF ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Sean O'Sullivan (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of National Defence. It concerns the continuing hardship faced by residents along the shore of the Great Lakes as a result of high water levels. Has the minister followed up his commitment to consider the use of technical and personnel facilities of his department to assist municipalities and individuals who will be facing renewed difficulties this approaching winter? In short, will the federal government at this late date finally step in to assist those residents facing this difficulty?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, as I have explained before, and I think the hon. member knows this, I cannot move National Defence personnel in to correct a flood problem without an invitation and request from the provincial authorities. We have had no such request, although we have been in contact through the Emergency Measures Organization with the province of Ontario.

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MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—FORMULA FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS—DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF ALLOCATION

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. What formula will be used in the allocation of funds to each constituency under the current LIP program?

Oral Questions

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the allocation between provinces is based on a formula reflecting unemployment, with an adjustment for native people who may not be in the labour force. As between constituencies, the allocations are based on a similar formula adjusted as a result of consultation with the provincial governments.

[Later:]

Mr. Towers: Can the minister advise when the announcement will be made as to the allocation of funds for the LIP program?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, we will be dealing with allocations within the next few days. I will let the hon. member know shortly what his constituency can expect.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

COUNTY COURTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA—INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES TO FILL VACANCIES

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. There have been vacancies in the county courts of British Columbia for a number of months resulting in a situation where cases set down for trial this month will not be reached until May or June. Will the minister advise when the appointments will be made to fill the three vacancies so the work in that court can continue?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, a number of appointments, including some to the county courts, were made last week in the province of British Columbia. We are very energetically continuing our now common practice of trying to seek out the best possible candidates for the available positions. As soon as these can be put in place, appointments will be made.

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, I understood the minister to say a number of appointments had been to the county courts in British Columbia last week. I would ask the minister to check his information and advise me.

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to send the information to the hon. member.

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ENERGY

SUPPLYING OF CANADIAN OIL TO CHERRY POINT AS ALTERNATIVE TO ALASKAN OIL—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the statement made to the House that the government is now reconsidering the guarantee of supplies to the Cherry Point oil refinery as an alternative to the Juan de Fuca Strait route for Alaska oil, will the minister advise specifically the alternate proposal of the government in order to avoid the consequences of that? In