

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

MEASURES TO COMPENSATE FARMERS FOR LOSSES INCURRED

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture relating to the lower income registered by farmers as compared to last year.

Can the minister tell us what steps he intends to take to make up for the losses the farmers suffered because prices went down by 5.9 per cent in December 1970?

[English]

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, there are many programs and amendments to programs that are under way now which I am sure the hon. member is aware of and which will help to relieve this situation.

PRESENTATION OF FARM CONSOLIDATION PLAN PRIOR TO LEGISLATION IMPLEMENTING GRAIN PRODUCTION AND RECEIPTS POLICY

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): May I ask the Minister of Agriculture whether he can assure the House that the government's plan for farm consolidation will be presented to the House prior to legislation being introduced to implement the grain receipts policy for the western grain industry?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): To repeat what the Minister of Manpower and Immigration said a few days ago, to bring the stabilization program into full effect would require amendments to a number of Acts.

Mr. Gleave: In light of what the minister has said, and since it is necessary to know what type of farm and rural community structure is going to be stabilized under the plan to which he referred, is he not putting the cart before the horse, and will the minister reconsider the position and make a statement on motions—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's supplementary question is in the form of a representation.

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COMBINES

SUGGESTED INVESTIGATION OF SO-CALLED PRICE WAR AMONG GROCERY CHAINS

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of certain questions that have been asked in the House by me, by the hon. member for Don Valley and by other hon. members concerning the so-called price war among major grocery chains, is the minister now in a position to give us a report on what the Combines Investigation Branch has been doing in this regard?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): I made it very clear that we have been following the situation in most of Canada where discount operations seem to be appearing from two points of view:

Inquiries of the Ministry

first, whether any offence under the Combines Investigation Act is being committed and, second, whether there has been any misleading advertising with regard to any of the claims respecting discount prices. Naturally, as is traditional in these matters which involve what are in essence criminal investigations, I am not in a position to report progress on any of these inquiries unless or until charges are laid.

Mr. Nesbitt: Since reports in the press and elsewhere indicate that prices have not in fact been going down as regards one of the major companies but going up, I wonder if the minister could do something to accelerate the investigations that are now going on in order to prevent at least some of the smaller grocery stores in Ontario being put out of business by what appears to be very suspicious activity?

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF PROVINCIAL RECRUITMENT QUOTAS

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): My question is for the Minister of National Defence. Can the minister indicate whether his department is now planning to introduce a system of recruitment quotas for each of the provinces on or about April 1 and, if so, what is the nature or the level of these quotas?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): I would have to confirm this, but I know of no system of quotas on a provincial basis. There is, of course, a very detailed quota system with regard to specific trades.

Mr. Forrestall: Would the minister determine what the facts are in looking into the matter because there are rumours afloat that there is a system of quotas which would make a division between Anglophone and Francophone recruitment in the armed forces, and it seems to me that this should be cleared up once and for all.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Perhaps I could remind the hon. member that any Anglophone or Francophone differential would not be on a provincial basis.

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INFORMATION CANADA

ALLEGED GRANT TO THE CANADA COMMITTEE

Mr. David Lewis (York South): May I ask the Prime Minister whether he is aware that Information Canada is alleged to have made a grant or to be prepared to make a grant to an organization called The Canada Committee? If so, is that one of the functions that have been assigned to Information Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will have to check into both questions.