

Oral Questions

● (1510)

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I regret that this is all wrong. The report we have does not indicate that the nature of the fuel was the cause of the explosion. I read the report just a few hours ago and the only reference is to the vent system around the tanks. It has nothing to do with the quality of the fuel.

Mr. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain): In light of the latest report by *Flight International* which states that JP-4 fuel presently used by Air Canada is a definite hazard, and in view of the fact that JP-1 is acknowledged worldwide as a safe fuel and is used by the Minister of Transport in its planes, will the minister now order that Air Canada use the safer fuel, JP-1?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I regret that I do not accept the premise of the hon. gentleman's question.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

INVESTIGATION OF REPORTS CONCERNING ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN NEWSPAPER REPORTERS—METHOD USED—INSTRUCTIONS OF SOLICITOR GENERAL

Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Solicitor General. When he replied to the hon. member for Assiniboia, he indicated that his department is considering an investigation to determine how certain reports appeared in an Alberta newspaper. Would the minister advise what methods he is using to carry out that investigation, and particularly whether the RCMP are involved in the investigation?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I brought this matter to the attention of the Commissioner of the RCMP, and requested him to find out if there were any members of the force leaking either false or correct reports to the press. I intend to find that out in a few days.

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): Are we to understand that the Solicitor General has issued no instructions to the RCMP to undertake investigations of journalists in Alberta in connection with this incident?

Mr. Allmand: That is right, Mr. Speaker. There is no investigation of journalists in Alberta, but we want to find out if there was an infraction of the Official Secrets Act.

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AGRICULTURE

STABILIZATION PROGRAM—DATE OF INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION—CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES ON AID TO HOG PRODUCERS

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the emergency action he has taken with regard to beef and the new dairy policy he announced last week, can he tell the House when the legislation for an over-all farm

[Mr. Beattie.]

stabilization program, which was forecast in the Speech from the Throne and which he has talked about on the hustings, will be brought before the House? I ask this in particular because of the present depressed hog prices, with the chairman of the Canadian Pork Council stating that producers are in real trouble.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that we are hoping to bring it before the House in the very near future.

Mr. Gleave: As a supplementary question may I ask the minister whether he has had consultations with his provincial counterparts in Saskatchewan, British Columbia and, indeed, in Quebec on how to give the hog industry some aid before the producers all go broke?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I can say this: I am consulting with them as much as or probably more than he consulted with me before they put their programs into effect.

BEEF CATTLE SUBSIDY—SUGGESTED WITHDRAWAL OF PROGRAM

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that grade A Hereford steers sold on Friday for as low as 38 cents a pound, and that there are many signs of discrepancies which indicate that the beef subsidy is not getting back to the producers, would the minister withdraw this program and let cattle trade in a free, open market until he comes up with a better system?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the market shows returning strength. It is returning to normality today, at least in Calgary and Winnipeg. I have not had the latest reports from Toronto today. I can say that there are many producers in real trouble and it would be no aid to them for me to withdraw this program at this time. As I said before, if everybody involved in this program wants to make it work and does not make unnecessary rip-offs, then it can work and be beneficial in assisting the industry to stay healthy, happy, and economically wise.

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INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Albert Béchard (Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of the Environment and Fisheries. Is he in a position to inform the House and the Canadian people as to the number of foreign fishing vessels found in our north Atlantic waters by the Leader of the Opposition and members of his party during their recent expedition?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!