

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I did meet with these people representing both the Quebec producers and the Ontario producers. We discussed many problems that they are facing because of an over 200 per cent increase in protein costs and lower production of milk and milk products in general. They made many suggestions which we are studying. If a decision is reached it will be announced in the proper fashion.

[Translation]

Mr. Beaudoin: I should like to ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Can the hon. minister tell us whether he will soon reach a conclusion and whether he proposes to make a statement in the House on this matter?

[English]

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, part of this is a provincial responsibility. The province of Ontario has already outlined a program to try to help to increase production of industrial milk. We will be working closely with them on the different programs they are suggesting and if we come to a conclusion it will be announced.

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GRAIN

FEED GRAIN PRICING POLICY—POSSIBILITY OF LEGISLATION TO AMEND WHEAT BOARD ACT

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister in charge of the Wheat Board in regard to the cost of feed and feed grains. In view of the continued speculation and rumours that are rife regarding changes in the pricing policy for feed grains and suggestions that pricing practices and control may be removed from the Canadian Wheat Board, will the minister say whether he is preparing legislation to bring before the House in regard to the Wheat Board Act?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, as the House knows, the government intends to announce a policy in relation to feed grains in Canada in the fairly near future. When a decision has been made it will be announced and at that time it will be apparent whether legislation is in fact required.

Mr. Gleave: In view of the importance of this question, will the minister give the House the assurance that when such an announcement is made it will be made in the House and will be subject to discussion in the House?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I would expect that we would ordinarily bring this matter to the attention of the House as soon as a decision has been made. Certainly I will welcome discussion on it because it is such an important matter as we try to assure justice to all farmers in Canada.

Oral Questions

AIRPORTS

PICKERING—COMPETENCE OF BOARD OF INQUIRY TO STUDY NEED AND LOCATION

Mr. Reg Stackhouse (Scarborough East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In light of the way the terms of reference for the board of examination of the Pickering airport give certain instructions to the board but fail to instruct it to study the question of airport need and location, will the minister inform the House if the board is being directed to study this vital question or if it is even authorized to study it?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think the terms of reference are clear on this. There is no doubt that the board can receive evidence on need and location of the airport.

● (1150)

Mr. Stackhouse: While the minister is correct in saying that according to the terms of reference the board is free to accept evidence, I ask him whether he is directing the proposed board to study the question of airport need?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, this board has been constituted in order to allow interested parties to make representations and bring evidence before the board. If no one appears before the board, it will not mean anything. If people are really interested in having the decision of the government changed or having their point of view known, I hope they will appear before the board. Otherwise, all those who claimed a board was needed were lying to us.

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AGRICULTURE

REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION TO CONTROL BRUCELLOSIS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Mr. Norval Horner (Battleford-Kindersley): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that brucellosis or Bangs disease in cattle herds is completely out of control in the province of Saskatchewan, especially northern Saskatchewan, with new herds being infected daily and as proper precautions and regular policies have not been followed by the department and the department has proved to be incompetent and incapable—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member ask the question.

Mr. Horner (Battleford-Kindersley): Would the minister take immediate action in view of the fact a meeting was held last night in Debden, Saskatchewan, at which the chief veterinarian and eight other departmental veterinarians again failed to comprehend the problem?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, as far as I am concerned the regular program is being followed. There is no tremendous increase in brucellosis in Canada. I received a report yesterday. The Minis-