

greater degree of trust by all Canadians in the policies of the Bank of Canada.

Mr. MacEachen: Madam Speaker, I want to make it clear to the hon. member that the governor of the Bank of Canada has received representations, and will continue to receive views and representations, from western premiers and other interest groups.

I do not think it appropriate, in this context, to revise the constitutional arrangements and to provide for a formal structure which is unnecessary in light of the free access which all groups have both to the governor and to the government.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

EMBARGO ON AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO SOVIET UNION— GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. The Minister of Agriculture is quoted as having said at the weekend that he favoured a complete embargo on Canadian agricultural exports to the Soviet Union.

Can the Prime Minister tell the House whether the Minister of Agriculture was stating government policy, in view of the fact that an embargo on grain sales to Russia alone could cost Canada in excess of \$400 million per year.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture has not had an opportunity to make this particular suggestion to me. He may have discussed it with the Secretary of State for External Affairs or other ministers. I shall inquire.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Madam Speaker, the statement by the Minister of Agriculture has caused very great ripples throughout the agricultural industry, which is now concerned that this is a new direction being taken and that the person who should be speaking on behalf of western agriculture and agriculture generally is now making suggestions that we limit our exports to the Soviet Union.

Madam Speaker, due to the fact that the Prime Minister has allowed him to answer this question at least, I should like to put a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the statement made by the minister on the Olympic boycott, to the effect that we were going to maintain traditional levels of grain sales and continue traditional exports of agricultural products to the Soviet Union, is this particular initiative one which he endorses and one he has discussed with the Minister of Agriculture?

If there are other embargo items, is he now prepared to bring the House into his confidence and let us know whether he plans other initiatives with respect to the Afghanistan problem?

Oral Questions

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture and I are continually having discussions on these and other problems. I also discussed the embargo question with the United States Secretary of State, as he then was, last week.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Look what happened to him.

Mr. MacGuigan: There is no further announcement to be made at this time. We will certainly keep the House informed. I will say that there is in place a very full range of sanctions on the Soviet Union with respect to Afghanistan.

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PARKS CANADA

PROPOSED RELOCATION OF REGIONAL OFFICE FROM CORNWALL TO PETERBOROUGH

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Madam Speaker, my question stems from a question put earlier today which dealt with the cancellation of construction of the Eldorado Nuclear plant in Hope township.

My question to the Minister of the Environment concerns another regional office relocation of Parks Canada from Cornwall to Peterborough. Would the minister advise this House if he has had a change of mind about that move which is currently under review, or has he decided to permit it to move as planned to Peterborough from Cornwall?

● (1430)

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, as the hon. member has suggested, the matter has been under review. I have made some recommendations to my colleagues concerning it and I hope very shortly—perhaps within the next two weeks—to be able to announce a definitive decision on the matter.

Mr. Domm: Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is to the Minister of the Environment and it deals with the same subject. Going back to the last election, the employees of the office in Cornwall were told that they would be advised within seven to 14 days should the government decide to cancel that move. Those 14 days have passed. Could the minister advise this House why every time 14 days pass he requires another 14 days to review the move?

Mr. Roberts: Madam Speaker, the basis of the hon. member's question is incorrect. When I met the employees in Cornwall, I said that I hoped very shortly, within two weeks, to have come to a conclusion in my own mind about the matter and I would then be making recommendations to my cabinet colleagues. The fact of the matter is that I have decided on the proposals I want to present and I am discussing them with my cabinet colleagues. I indicated at that time that I would have to discuss the proposals I wished to make, and it might take further time before a decision could be announced.