

Oral Questions

Canadians who travel by air or if some exceptions are provided?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): There are no exceptions, Mr. Speaker. If the hon. member refers to the information published yesterday in *La Presse* it is baseless because Friday I was not in Montreal, at Dorval or at the airport. I was here in Ottawa and *La Presse* has promised that it would retract and apologize for what it has published.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

SUGAR BEETS—POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF IMPORTS AND SUBSEQUENT INCREASE IN DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF SUGAR

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question, if I may, to the Minister of Agriculture. It is based on his very commendable efforts to reintroduce a sugar industry in southwestern Ontario. Can the minister indicate to the House that the government, by reason of negotiation or conversation, has reason to believe that Canada's present commitments under the international sugar agreement can be terminated and a new restriction on cane sugar imports imposed so as to increase the percentage of sugar produced from domestic sources?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have every reason to believe that we can increase the domestic production of sugar in Canada.

Mr. Danforth: Mr. Speaker, the minister missed the purport of my question. I know we can increase our domestic production. Is there reason to believe that we can change the agreement on the importation of cane sugar to the degree that we can supply more of our market for this sugar from domestic production?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I am still confident that we can do that, too.

SUGAR BEETS—POSSIBLE INCREASE IN ALLOCATION TO WESTERN PROVINCES

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture. As the minister has said that a new sugar policy would increase the percentage of the market reserved for domestic sugar, would the minister indicate how much of that increased percentage would be allocated to the western provinces?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have met the chairmen of the Alberta Sugar Beet Growers Association, of the Manitoba Sugar Beet Growers Association, of the Quebec Sugar Beet Growers Association and the national sugar beet growers association. They are all agreed that this matter can be worked out in a proper manner between the different areas.

[Mr. Beaudoin.]

SUGAR BEETS—APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF ACRES NEEDED FOR EFFICIENT OPERATION OF REFINERIES

Mr. J. R. Holmes (Lambton-Kent): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture. On the basis of the minister's assertion regarding the promotion of the sugar beet industry in southwestern Ontario, can the minister say if the 40 per cent committed acreage is the absolute minimum or will a lower figure of, say, 25,000 acres encourage the minister to take action?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, according to my discussions with interested people, specialists in sugar beet refineries and operations, it is estimated, roughly, that an efficient operation would require approximately 30,000 acres. It may be of importance for hon. members to know, Mr. Speaker, that growers pledged over 15,000 acres during the meeting which was held in Chatham last Saturday.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are nearing the end of the question period. Perhaps the Chair might be allowed to recognize a few hon. members who have not had an opportunity to ask questions.

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HEALTH AND WELFARE

DAY-CARE SERVICES—FEDERAL SHARE OF COST

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the report just released by his department that federal expenditures on day-care services may reach \$8 million this year, does the government intend to take more vigorous steps to implement the full cost-sharing program of \$400 million proposed by the report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, this matter is essentially under provincial responsibility. It is being discussed with provincial welfare ministers on a consulting basis.

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Is the minister aware that if the federal government's share of this \$400 million program were to be \$200 million, at the rate the government is now proceeding with increases of \$4 million each year—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is argument.

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POST OFFICE

BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO—POSSIBLE INTERVENTION BY MINISTER IN DISPUTE WITH EMPLOYEES

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Postmaster General. Will the Postmaster General advise the House whether he intends to intervene