

Oral Questions

tarnish the image and, indeed, the credibility of people in public life?

● (1450)

CPR DIRECTORSHIP

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister how can the farmers of Canada have any hope, confidence, and trust in this administration when the Minister of Transport is so closely aligned to one of the leadership candidates, Mr. Turner, who is on the board of directors of CPR? Furthermore this situation is compounded by the fact that the former chairman of the CPR is serving in the Senate, and the former chairman of the CNR is serving as the Grain Transport Agency Administrator. How can farmers expect to get a fair deal from this regime?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is free to do what I would not want to do, that is, to take sides in favour of one, or against one of the federal leadership candidates. I do not believe he has a delegate's vote. I take it that his enjoiner to people on this side is hidden support for the Minister of Agriculture, which I am sure the Minister of Agriculture will acknowledge.

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METRIC CONVERSION

ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATIONS—MINISTER'S STATEMENT

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. She was asked on November 2 if she would enforce metric regulations after Judge William Ross said it was legal to use imperial measurement. The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs said:

—the law prevails and we will not be able to enforce any of those regulations in the Province of Ontario.

She later amended this statement to include all of Canada.

Why does the Minister propose to ignore the law now and, according to her recent press release, pass an Order in Council in July, after Parliament recesses in June, which would make mandatory the use of metric weigh scales?

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is manufacturing statements that are not included in the press release. I recommend he buy himself a new pair of glasses and read the press release again. The press release states very clearly that we have gazetted our intention, as provided to us by an Act of Parliament, to regulate metric and imperial advertising. We are, indeed, extending regulations that were in effect up until the end of this year. This extension of regulations has been done because of the many, many requests that were put forward by such umbrella organizations as the Consumers' Association of Canada and the Retail Council. In fact there

were 242 member organizations at a metric forum that requested we put regulations in effect that would call for both metric and imperial advertising; advertising only. It does not refer to any use of metric scales.

Mr. Domm: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs might be able to convince some of those pea-brained dinosaurs in the Liberal Cabinet that it is not a new Order in Council, but I would suggest that the Minister read her own press release that says the amended regulations will be published shortly in *The Canada Gazette* and would become effective early in July. I say to the Minister: Pay attention to your own press releases.

SALARIES OF METRIC COMMISSION EXECUTIVES

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Under the freedom of information legislation I have obtained a government document from Consumer and Corporate Affairs which indicates that \$270,000 will be spent on Metric Commission executive salaries in 1984-85 representing a reduction of less than half a person year. The total salary costs for the Metric Commission in its phased-out year will exceed \$1,663,000. The Minister better face up to the people of Canada. Is she going to phase out the Metric Commission, and is she going to pass Orders in Council against the decision of the Judge in the Ontario courts?

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are going to phase out the Metric Commission, as was the original plan laid out some time ago. The reason for the phasing out is that the work is done. Canada is now very close to being totally metric.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mrs. Erola: And the metric forum to which the Hon. Member was invited, and in which he participated, indicated that there is overwhelming support for metric, that the children of our country are now fully familiar with the metric system. It is only the dinosaurs on the other side of the House who still cannot count.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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TRADE

BEEF IMPORTS FROM COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES

Mr. Bert Hargrave (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister for International Trade. I believe he is behind the curtain.

Mr. Darling: He is hiding.