

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Miss Monique Bégin (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, at the federal-provincial conference held on December 11 last, we reached an agreement on principle. I wish I could tell him that the agreement has been signed, but that I do not know. However, I shall take note of the question of the hon. member and look into the matter.

* * *

[English]

AGRICULTURE**BROILERS—POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING NATIONAL MARKETING AGENCY**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture and ask him whether a decision has been reached with respect to the establishment of a broiler marketing agency under the Farm Products Marketing Act.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): No, Mr. Speaker, I met people from the different provincial marketing boards and told them I would consider their request but that I wanted to make it plain to any marketing agency with which I was involved that I would have to have more federal authority than we had in anything they were proposing at that time.

BROILERS—POSSIBILITY OF ACTION ON FOOD PRICES REVIEW BOARD REPORT CONCERNING MARKETING PRACTICES

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Is the minister able to tell the House what action, if any, the government has taken on the recommendation of the Food Prices Review Board or at least in respect of their report of October 1975 with regard to the broiler industry in Canada and what appear to be certain questionable marketing practices in contravention of the BNA Act?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): The marketing practices referred to by the Food Prices Review Board are under provincial jurisdiction and I have very little if anything to do with that. The broiler producers in Canada at present are practically being put out of business by cheap imports from the Southern United States.

* * *

NATIONAL DEFENCE**STATUS OF COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT SAMSON—POSSIBLE DELAY IN COMPLETION**

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. Could he inform the House of the status of project Samson, the new system which is to update communications in the Department of National Defence?

[Mr. Fairweather.]

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the Samson project is continuing and will be completed in the near future.

Mr. McKenzie: Has Computing Devices of Ottawa fulfilled its \$6 million contract with the Department of Supply and Services to supply terminal equipment for the \$24 million Samson project?

Mr. Richardson: No, Mr. Speaker, I understand that Computing Devices have not been able to complete their part of the contract.

Mr. McKenzie: Will the program be in operation as scheduled for mid 1976?

● (1140)

Mr. Richardson: I do not know if the difficulties which Computing Devices have encountered will in fact have the effect of delaying the program. That is possible.

* * *

[Translation]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**ALLEGED PARTICIPATION OF MR. HOLDEN IN LETTER FROM JUDGE MACKAY—PURPOSE OF LETTER**

Mr. Pierre De Bané (Matane): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Justice.

Can he ask the Chief Justice of the Quebec Superior Court to find out whether there is any truth or not behind the rumours now circulating that Mr. Holden helped, directly or indirectly, to write the letter Judge Mackay sent, and whether the judge's letter was motivated only by the fact that his former associate's fees have not been paid, and whether his former associates' firm still owe him some money?

[English]

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, my view of any such rumours would be that, even if true, they would clearly be within the management of the court which, as I have stated many times in the House and as the Chief Justice of the Superior Court documents in his letter to me, under the Quebec Judiciary Act is clearly within the hands of the Chief Justice.

POSSIBLE REFERENCE OF ALLEGED INTERFERENCE WITH JUDICIARY TO CANADIAN JUDICIAL COUNCIL—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF REPORT

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Justice if he regularly or even occasionally receives the determination of matters which come before the Canadian Judicial Council.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): No, Mr. Speaker. Under the law I would receive those matters which I have directed the council to take under consideration under section 32(1), I think it is, but apart from that, no.