

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): I would like to ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since the adoption of the legislation known as Bill C-76, did beef meat producer associations make any representation to the minister about their desire to have a marketing board for beef meat in Canada, as well as for quantities of imported beef from other countries?

• (1427)

[English]

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, there have been some representations by some beef producers indicating that they want this kind of marketing system. I believe the vast majority would rather have—at least, it appears to me—the system we have at the present time, with some protection against imports, etc. They have protection against imports; they had it last year. They have it again this year under the import-export act. All beef producing countries which sell beef to Canada are under a permit or quota system at the present time.

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NORTHERN AFFAIRS

YUKON—REQUEST FOR RESIGNATION OF COMMISSIONER

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the fact that the Stratton Inquiry now under way in the Yukon, established to inquire into the conduct of the minister's Commissioner of the Yukon, Art Pearson, among other things, in directing that a charge before the judge of the Supreme Court of the Yukon territory be withdrawn, has been referred to by the minister's commissioner in these terms, "I think the whole thing is a crock of bullshit", and notwithstanding Art Pearson's statement, which was not under oath, to attempt to escape the consequences of such a rash and contemptuous declaration, has the minister considered calling for the immediate resignation of his Commissioner of the Yukon?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): No, Mr. Speaker, I have not. I will await the outcome of the inquiry.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, since the minister must bear ultimate responsibility for the actions and statements of his departmental employees, in this case Commissioner Pearson, and since this entire affair is far more serious than the conduct of the hon. member for Westmount during the judges' affair a few months ago, when the hon. member for Westmount took the only honourable course open to him and tendered his resignation as a minister of the Crown, does the minister not feel obliged to his government, to his office and to the people of the Yukon to call for the immediate resignation of his Yukon commissioner?

Mr. Faulkner: No, Mr. Speaker. I feel an obligation to let the judicial process of the Yukon, now under way, complete

Oral Questions

itself. As the hon. member is a lawyer, I thought he would have respected that.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, it is a pity that his commissioner, in withdrawing the charges before the Supreme Court, did not follow that course. My supplementary question is: Since the Commissioner of the Yukon is appointed by the minister, holds office at the pleasure of the minister, reports and is responsible to the minister, does the minister not consider it to be a serious conflict for the Commissioner of the Yukon to establish an inquiry into his own conduct and set the terms of reference for that inquiry after restricting those terms of reference to what his commissioner wished from those requested by the elected members of the Yukon legislature?

Does the minister not believe he has any responsibility, in view of his Yukon commissioner's contemptuous references to the inquiry set up by him, to intervene as I have suggested, particularly in light of the judges' affair of a few months ago?

Mr. Faulkner: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member had reservations about the setting up of the terms of reference for this inquiry, he could have raised them some time ago.

Mr. Nielsen: I did, in the House.

An hon. Member: He did.

Mr. Faulkner: I believe the inquiry is well established, and it is presided over by the very distinguished Mr. Justice Stratton. I am confident it will do the job it was originally established to do. I am prepared to wait for the findings of Mr. Justice Stratton.

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FINANCE

REQUEST FOR INVOKING OF ANTI-DUMPING LEGISLATION RESPECTING STEEL BEAMS

Mr. Ron Huntington (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, in view of the absence of the Minister of Finance I will direct my question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance. As the Minister of Finance is now aware of the serious disruption to the British Columbia construction industry and the threat to the jobs of 1,000 steelworkers in British Columbia caused by the decision of the anti-dumping tribunal on the Algoma Steel appeal, can he advise the House if steps will be taken to alleviate this serious example of regional discrimination by asking the governor in council to invoke section 7 of the Anti-Dumping Act exempting wide-flange steel beams from dumping duty when entered through the port of Vancouver?

Mr. Ed. Lumley (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, members of the British Columbia caucus have made representations to the minister in this regard. No decision has been taken as of this date.