

the potentially explosive situation in the penitentiaries because of the conditions prevailing in some of these institutions across Canada and the recent suicide of a 19-year old at Prince Albert penitentiary, would the Solicitor General initiate a public inquiry into the conditions prevailing in penitentiaries and the increase in the number of suicides that have taken place there?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): I welcome the members of the House of Commons committee on Justice and Legal Affairs who have just returned early this morning, I believe, from a tour of four or five of the institutions in the penitentiary service in western Canada. I have not yet had an opportunity to obtain information from any of them as to what they found, but I will take the hon. member's suggestion under consideration after I find out what the standing committee has learned on this matter.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

INVESTIGATION OF FREIGHT TRAIN DERAILMENTS IN NEWFOUNDLAND

Mr. Ambrose Hubert Peddle (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, may I raise a brief point of order before I ask my question. I was a rather heavy smoker and I just gave it up, so when I rise in future it will be to catch Your Honour's eye to ask a question.

My question is directed to the Minister of Transport. In view of the extraordinary number of CNR freight train derailments in Newfoundland in recent months, in the latest of which a number of cattle ended up as hamburger, would the minister have his department investigate and report on these derailments in the interest of saving human lives in the future?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will be very glad to look into the matter.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. May I say that once again there have been what we call usual discussions. I think it will be found there is general agreement with respect to today's debate under Standing Order 58 for the principal speakers for each party to be allowed 20 minutes and all the rest 15 minutes.

Mr. Speaker: Is this agreed?

Agricultural Policies

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It is so ordered.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 58—ALLEGED FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL POLICIES

Mr. A. P. Gleave moved:

That this House calls upon the government to reverse its present policies which have deliberately depressed the agricultural economy of this country, causing excessive unemployment, lack of income, slow economic growth and little hope for the future, and this House urges the government to take positive measures to ensure a dynamic rural community as an essential component of Canadian society.

He said: In speaking to this motion, I may say that our objective is to bring to the attention of this House and also of the country the situation that faces farmers as well as the urgent importance of providing for the needs of farmers in this country. The recent revaluation of the dollar threw into rather sharp focus the need to take measures to protect the income of farmers and to see that they share in the opportunities for improving their standard of living within the Canadian economy. The fact that when the dollar was revalued the offering price of wheat immediately dropped some 6 cents a bushel throws into sharp relief what happens when the fiscal policies of this or any other government are controlled and directed toward objectives that often are not helpful to the farmer. The same thing happened with regard to the sale of beef. The revaluation of the dollar had a generally depressing effect on many parts of agriculture. There was intrinsically and basically good reason for the government taking the action that it did with regard to the relationship of our dollar to other currencies, but there is a great contrast between the haste with which they moved to protect the textile industry and their lack of action to protect the farming industry, more particularly the grain industry.

● (12 noon)

Undoubtedly, the same pattern will be found in our export trade. At the time the International Grains Arrangement was negotiated, and this was a transaction between governments, the minimum price established was \$1.95½. The government of the day, the same government we have now, saw fit to