

*Oral Questions*MILK POWDER—SALE TO EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES—
POSSIBLE OFFER TO LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is to the Minister of Agriculture. It is with regard to the report today that the Canadian Dairy Commission is offering surplus milk powder to eastern European countries for less than 14 cents a pound. Did the government give the right of first refusal of this surplus milk powder to the least developed countries of the world where starvation and malnutrition are rampant?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that we have, through the normal channels of government, explored every avenue to try to give it away, sell it as cheap as we can—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Whelan: We know that after skim milk powder reaches the 90 day stage, many countries will not accept it for consumption. Therefore, it has to be distributed as rapidly as possible. A lot of the product that is going to Europe, or wherever it may be going—we have agents all over the world trying to sell it, push it and do everything else with it—will be for recycling, possibly for livestock feed, in the baking industry and so on.

Mr. Roche: This morning's report stated that the surplus milk powder will be disposed of for livestock feed. That was confirmed by the minister a second ago. Is it the policy of the government that surplus food products in Canada will be disposed of as food for animals rather than shipped by the first available transportation for human consumption to countries facing starvation?

Mr. Whelan: In no way, Mr. Speaker. However, as far as we are concerned, we want to make sure that none goes to waste. If it can be used for human consumption, that is the first preference. If necessary, it will be used for animal feed. That is not new in our history. I remember years ago when we bought it on the farms for three cents a pound.

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AIR TRANSPORT

BILINGUAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR
CLARIFICATION OF MINISTER'S STATEMENT

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transport. In light of the announcement made by the minister in a press release on December 13 that studies and consultations would precede the implementation of bilingual IFR and VFR communications at airports in the province of Quebec, will the minister clarify the press statement attributed to Mr. Walter McLeish of his department to the effect that the bilingual air traffic control program is envisaged to handle commercial air traffic? Does this mean both international and domestic commercial flights or just domestic?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, that statement, and the longer statement which I made

[Mr. Whelan.]

today, I think clarifies the situation quite fully as far as both the great care we are taking to be sure that safety is being taken into account and also our objective to allow for the use of the French language in the province of Quebec by those pilots who are much more at home in that language. Of course, at all times the English language will be available for international flights.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Not having had the advantage of having read the statement made today—it was made outside the House—I should like to ask the minister if he is now considering the introduction of bilingual VFR communications programs at Dorval and Mirabel despite his undertaking in this House, if my memory serves me correctly, that no extension of this program beyond the five airports originally cited in the province of Quebec would be carried out until appropriate simulator studies had been conducted satisfactorily by the ministry, and even then only after full consultation and agreement with the Airline Pilots Association.

Mr. Lang: We have at all times repeated our intention to test fully all procedures, be absolutely satisfied about safety and have full discussions with all interested parties about the procedures which are in effect. I would therefore ask the hon. member to avoid his phobia of looking for problems where none exist—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lang: —and his double phobia in thinking I should make an address to the International Airline Pilots Association in this House.

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AIRPORTS

OTTAWA—POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING BILINGUAL AIR
TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Would the Minister of Transport clarify his statement to the press to the effect that he will be looking seriously at the prospect of bilingual communications at Ottawa International airport, and, if so, for what reason?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Obviously, hon. members will be delighted to know that I have asked my department to send a copy of my full remarks this morning to all members of the House, so that they will know exactly what I did say. I did indicate that the intention of our examination was to look at bilingual communication in air traffic control throughout the province of Quebec. I did indicate we were not looking beyond that, with the single exception of the national capital where for obvious reasons somewhat similar considerations might apply.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Could the minister be more specific as to the reasons for which he intends to recommend that bilingual communication be entertained in Ottawa and whether or not the air traffic controllers have in fact been consulted with respect to this move, and further, in times