

obliged to do so, if I feel that in any way they are interfering with the application of the law or departing from the very important traditions of attorneys general functioning as officers of the court to apply the law and apply their discretion in that context. I cannot see that kind of departure in this circumstance.

POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE FOR DR. MORGENTALER

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I will try another department and ask the Solicitor General if consideration is being given to the recommendation of a parole by exception for Henry Morgentaler?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, there is no application for such a parole.

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AGRICULTURE

PROPOSED CO-ORDINATION OF FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL MEAT INSPECTION AGENCIES

Mr. Bert Hargrave (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the unfortunate and serious situation that has developed over the tainted meat scandal in Quebec and Ontario that is causing concern to producing cattlemen all across Canada and one that has already caused a price drop, will the minister use his good offices as a federal minister to ensure that federal meat inspection under the health of animals branch and the various provincial meat inspection agencies, is properly and quickly co-ordinated to ensure that all meat offered for sale in Canada for human consumption is adequately inspected by either the federal or provincial authorities and would he consider, as a means of accomplishing this objective, instructing the current Beef Inquiry Commission to inquire into the matter of the adequacy of national meat inspection and to make appropriate recommendations?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to make it clear that the vast majority of the meat is inspected federally, under the CDA inspection services, and under provincial or municipal systems. The vast majority of those products are thoroughly inspected. I have at all times defended our federal inspection services, particularly because I am more familiar with them, and I say that any fresh meat appearing on the store counter that is obviously so inspected is high quality meat, consumers can be sure so far as we are concerned. The price of meat in Canada has not changed much. It is approximately the same as in the United States, and this is the controlling factor. The price of meat in Omaha is the same, within 50 cents, as the price of meat in Toronto. I have no authority to instruct the Beef Inquiry Commission, which is inquiring into the marketing of beef products to change their directives at this time, but I am having some discussions with regard to the problem.

Oral Questions

● (1440)

CENTRAL MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

CONFLICT BETWEEN ECONOMIC FORECAST ISSUED BY CORPORATION AND THAT OF DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Considering that CMHC has issued a damning forecast for the economy in general and housing in particular, and in view of the fact that the deputy minister of finance sits on the CMHC board of directors, is this forecast by CMHC the result of consultation with the Department of Finance, and further, are the government's official predictions and evaluations of the economy in line with this June 6 report by CMHC?

Mr. Jack Cullen (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, needless to say, we have every confidence in the predictions made by the Department of Finance. In so far as the first part of the question is concerned as to the consultations, I will have to check that out.

GOVERNMENT ACTION TO AVERT PREDICTIONS IN ECONOMIC FORECAST BY CORPORATION

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. As the minister responsible for CMHC, does he accept the predictions put forward in the CMHC report "Economic Trends and Outlooks for 1975" and, if so, what immediate steps is he planning to take to avert the eight per cent unemployment, higher mortgage rates and fewer housing starts predicted in that report?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): I have every confidence in the economists of CMHC, but I have yet to find two economists who agree on the same set of figures. Their advice is based on background papers produced for guidance, and I also used them for guidance.

Miss MacDonald: Given the fact that CMHC has emphasized the plight of the housing industry in relation to the economy in general, has the minister had any reassurance from the Minister of Finance that those factors which adversely affect housing and mortgage rates, such as long term bond rates and the deficits in the balance of trade, will be taken into consideration at the time of the budget?

Mr. Danson: I have complete confidence that the Minister of Finance will take all these things under consideration when he brings down the budget.