

AGRICULTURE

MINISTER'S POSITION ON RESIGNATION OF MEMBER OF
NATIONAL FARM PRODUCTS MARKETING COUNCIL

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, it is late in the day, but I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Has the minister received a letter of resignation from one of the members of the National Farm Products Marketing Council over a disagreement with the CEMA policy and alleged discrimination in the allocation of birds and quotas to take effect this weekend? If so, what is he going to do about it?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): I am going to accept his resignation, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

● (1500)

Mr. Nowlan: Is the minister going to accept it today and rescind it tomorrow or is he going to accept it completely? What will the situation be, since the member who resigned is an ex-president of the Lambton-Kent Liberal Association and a political appointee of this political minister?

Mr. Whelan: As to the accusation the hon. member has made, I am sure he is not aware it is not factual or he would not have made it. The member he talks about was not appointed by this minister. He was recommended by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture to the minister at that time, who accepted the recommendation. He has a large farm, he has a young family; he has an obligation to them and he wants to return to his farm. Last year he wanted to resign but I suggested to him he should stay one year longer to serve his country and he did stay on to serve his country with distinction.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF NATIONAL CADET RIFLE
CHAMPIONS

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to draw the attention of the House to the presence in the gallery of the national cadet rifle champions.

Some hon Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Richardson: The Pickering high school cadet corps won the Ontario championship six weeks ago and last weekend went on to take the Canadian championship.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Business of the House

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed Bill S-33, an act respecting United Grain Growers Limited, to which the concurrence of this House is desired.

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The President of the Treasury Board on a point of order.

Mr. Chrétien: In replying to a question put by the Leader of the Opposition earlier, I forgot to say that Mr. Keith Spicer will appear before the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates on April 29.

* * *

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

WEEKLY STATEMENT

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether the government House leader is in a position to announce the business for the balance of today, for tomorrow and for the first of next week.

Mr. Sharp: Perhaps I ought to begin by saying it is the intention of the government that the Easter adjournment shall begin at the end of the day on Wednesday, April 14, and that we shall return on April 26. I say this by way of a preliminary statement before filling in the business for most of the time between now and then. Today, I hope that after disposing of the motion I intend to move, and of which I have given notice, for an allocation of time in respect of Bill C-83—

Mr. Papproski: Shame!

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Closure!

Mr. Sharp: —a motion which I hope we shall see agreed to more frequently by the opposition in the future in order to provide for the more orderly disposal of business, we shall then go on to consider the prisoners of war bill, C-92. Following that, in this order, for the remainder of today and tomorrow we shall take Bills C-92, S-32, C-88 and C-20. If the House agrees to the notice which is on notices of motions, we shall on Monday and Tuesday turn to the consideration of objections to the reports of the Redistribution Commissioners. After those have been disposed of, we shall return to the consideration, during the four days which will be provided in the allocation order, if it is accepted, of Bill C-83.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order, may I ask the government House leader this question: In view of the resignation of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and in view of the fact that new laws to combat loan sharks and control business monopolies are now sitting in limbo, does the minister consider the situation is important enough to call for the announcement of