

Oral Questions

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the right hon. member for Prince Albert is aware of our announcement last Friday in the House. There have been interdepartmental discussions. I also had some discussions with three of the provincial ministers of agriculture from the western provinces when they were here on Wednesday. We have arranged a meeting for next week in Regina. We have appointed a federal co-ordinator in Regina who is one of our top advisers in western Canada to work with the provinces to co-ordinate efforts and actions and to put them into force. We will be meeting the provincial ministers no later than next Friday, possibly sooner if we can arrange that kind of meeting. Our officials are having another meeting here on Monday to put forward the final type of system that is needed. As the right hon. gentleman knows, that committee consists of members of the cabinet from western Canada who will be meeting with officials, plus the minister in charge of DREE and the President of the Treasury Board.

● (1140)

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the minister that I deeply appreciate what he has just announced. There has been some mention made by him about ministers from western Canada. I wonder whether the lion and the lamb are going out to Saskatchewan to look into the drought situation. The hon. Minister without Portfolio and the Minister of Transport are supposed to be in Saskatchewan today in the Pelly constituency where there is a by-election. Are they going out there to look at the drought or the political drought of the Liberal Party?

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ROYAL COMMISSION ON CORPORATE CONCENTRATION

REPLACEMENT OF CHAIRMAN, ROBERT BRYCE—INTENTION OF
COMMISSION TO ISSUE REPORT

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. I would like to ask the Acting Prime Minister whether the government has made a decision as to who is to replace, if anyone, Mr. Robert Bryce as chairman of the Royal Commission on the Concentration of Economic Power?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, no decision has been taken on that point. I should say, in order to avoid a misunderstanding, that it is not the intention of the government to add a further person to the royal commission. That option has been explored, as I understand it, with the two remaining commissioners. Because of their desire to complete the report by September of this year, it was decided not to appoint a new person to the commission because if that happened it would obviously delay further the making of the report.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is also directed to the Acting Prime Minister. Do I take it from his

answer that he is now giving an unequivocal undertaking to the House of Commons, which he was not able to do a week or so ago, that a report will be issued from the Royal Commission on the Concentration of Economic Power?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, it is the intention of the two remaining commissioners to produce a report, and as I understand it, to make it available in September, if possible. That is certainly the wish of the government. The report will obviously be made public although we all realize the regrettable resignation of the chairman has altered, to some extent, the balanced composition that had hitherto existed within the commission.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary will be short. Just to be absolutely certain, this report will come out under the auspices of the royal commission and will not come out as a special report of the Economic Council of Canada?

Mr. MacEachen: That is right, Mr. Speaker. That was an option that had been considered at one point. It was abandoned, and the intention is it will come out under the auspices of the remaining commissioners.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

POSSIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS IN FIFTH
REPORT OF ADVISORY GROUP ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Treasury Board which arises out of the fifth report of the advisory group on executive compensation in the Public Service. May I ask the President of the Treasury Board if he intends to adopt any of the recommendations that have been advanced in this report, and if so, is he in a position to outline those recommendations which he is considering at the present time?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, we are examining that report with great interest. We are giving it consideration. When a decision is arrived at, it will be made known.

USE OF PERFORMANCE STANDARDS TO SET EXECUTIVE
COMPENSATION

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, since the committee placed great emphasis on the performance assessments and the need of establishing principles of accountability which can be applied to clear and, if possible, quantifiable terms in respect of activities and responsibilities of executive personnel, could I ask the minister if he is undertaking any new initiatives in that particular area with respect to performance measurement standards?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the comment on the performance measurement standards referred to in the report of the committee on executive compensation was critical of perhaps the over-enthusiasm