

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE**REQUEST FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION
OF DAIRY POLICY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Agriculture but in view of his absence, I shall put it to the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development.

As a result of the farmers' march on parliament on May 24 last, it was announced that the government would reconsider the request made by the farmers. Can the minister tell us now what decision has been reached with regard to the request the farmers made on May 24 last?

Hon. Maurice Sauvé (Minister of Forestry and Rural Development): Mr. Speaker, the dairy commission announced last Friday, in a release distributed to the press and the members of this house, a revision of its quota policy and the alleviation of its subsidy policy to dairy producers with a low quota of fluid milk deliveries, giving them the opportunity to become manufacturing milk producers.

Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development.

We understand from the reply given that the meeting will not take place tomorrow as previously decided?

Mr. Sauvé: No, Mr. Speaker. We had announced, after the meeting with the leaders of the farm organizations, that before June 10, the government would make its position known on the farmer's requests for changes in the dairy policy and secondly, that there would be a meeting with the representatives of farm organizations to discuss the future dairy policy and farm policy.

[English]

TRANSPORTATION**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON RAIL LINE
ABANDONMENT APPLICATIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reg Cantelon (Kindersley): Mr. Speaker, I have two questions for the Minister of Transport which are relative to the statement he made this morning. The first is, does he intend to have withdrawn order in council P.C. 167/569, which appears to wipe out the application of the new bill to certain abandonments? My second question is, when will

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we have the new Bill C-231 proclaimed, so that any abandonments which are to be proceeded with will have the protection of the new act?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, so far as the first of the two questions is concerned, I think I would have to look at the order in council before I would dare give an opinion, and perhaps I would not even then.

With respect to the second question, I did my best to answer it yesterday and the answer is still the same today.

Mr. R. R. Southam (Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Transport a supplementary question. In view of the fact that one of the key functions of this new commission was to be undertaken by the ancillary or independent group of cost accounting experts who were going to advise the new transport commission on economic matters relating to such things as applications for abandonment, master agency plans and so on, does the minister not think we should hold all these applications in abeyance until the new transport commission is fully constituted?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question is argumentative.

NATURAL GAS**REQUEST FOR SPEEDY ACTION BY U.S. ON
PIPE LINE APPLICATION**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): My question is addressed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the possible rationing of natural gas in certain parts of industrial Canada, would the ministers consider going to the United States government and asking that government to request their court of record, the federal power commission, to expedite proceedings as a courtesy to Canada in order that Canadian gas may be supplied to Canadian consumers?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I believe the federal power commission is very well aware and has said so, of the point my hon. friend has mentioned. I do not believe I have to tell the commissioners what they already know.

Mr. Hamilton: I do not believe the minister quite understood the full import of my first question. I repeat it very simply. Will the