

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL FOR FISHERMEN PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF BILL

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry arising from the fact that after second reading yesterday the House referred to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration the unemployment insurance bill. Will the minister place before the House what we have been advised is an alternative proposal to unemployment insurance for fishermen so that the committee, prior to its consideration of the terms of the unemployment insurance bill, can have knowledge of what the minister and the government have in mind in this regard?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to do so as soon as it has received full consideration by the government.

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AGRICULTURE

POTATOES—REQUEST BY PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND AND NEW BRUNSWICK FOR ASSISTANCE

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Has any decision been arrived at as a result of talks between his department and the government of Prince Edward Island with regard to rendering some assistance to the potato growers of the Maritimes who have been selling their product below the cost of production for some time?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the precise answer is no, but I should advise the hon. member there will be a meeting, which I am sure is scheduled for next Monday afternoon, between the Ministers of Agriculture for Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick and my officials and I.

HOGS—FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BECAUSE OF DEPRESSED PRICES

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, in view of the continuing decline in the market price of hogs and the hardship this is causing hog producers, may I ask the Minister of Agriculture whether he has given serious consideration to taking such action as is necessary to ensure that moneys will be paid out of the agricultural prices support fund to give assistance to these farmers during this crisis period?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, as I have replied to the hon. member a number of times, we are required under the Agricultural Stabilization Act to support the price of hogs at 80 per cent of the ten-year moving average. When we did the calculations for 1970 the amount for that year was substantially higher than 80 per cent of the ten-year moving average. I

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am sure that when we get to 1971 the calculations will be somewhat different because in the early part of 1970 hog prices were still relatively high. But when we reach the stage at which we do these calculations we have an obligation under the act.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question on behalf of those hog producers who may not survive until 1971. Would the minister consider calling together the advisory committee of the Agricultural Prices Support Board to see if it can give him some advice which would enable him to take some action?

Mr. Olson: There was a meeting of that advisory board within the last three weeks, I believe.

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. Will no further calculations be made in respect of the price received for hogs across Canada with regard to the subsidy payment until after the year 1971 is complete?

Mr. Olson: No, Mr. Speaker. I did not say at the end of the calendar year. I said at the end of the year when we normally make these calculations. I should like to have an opportunity to correct this after checking with my officials, but I believe that in the calculating of hog prices we do this from September to the next September.

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GRAIN

RAPESEED AND FLAXSEED—OPENING OF VANCOUVER FUTURES MARKET—PROTESTS AGAINST INCLUSION UNDER WHEAT BOARD

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister responsible for the Wheat Board. It has to do with the inclusion of rapeseed in the bill which has received first reading and is now before the House. Will the minister advise the House whether or not the futures market in Vancouver in connection with flaxseed, rapeseed and the like has now been opened? Will he also say whether in the last 24 hours messages have been received by the government and/or the Wheat Board from major importers in Japan taking strong objection to the inclusion of rapeseed under the Wheat Board and preferring the futures system in order to permit them to fix their requirements and, in particular, to meet the competition of soya beans and the like?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I know of no messages from our buyers in connection with the Canadian Wheat Board Act, although any messages may simply have not come to my attention yet. As indicated yesterday, there is certainly no intention to make such a decision to change the marketing without full consultation.

On the question of the futures market, I have been informed that the Winnipeg Grain Exchange is now satisfied with the arrangements which have been made or are being proposed to be made in Vancouver to allow for the