

vote by the Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference saying that elections now would be totally inappropriate, will the minister offer assurances to the House that he will make a determined effort to obtain a negotiated settlement between the two parties involved in this conflict, and then set the stage for democratic elections?

**Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Madam Speaker, I do not know why the hon. member cites the authorities which he thinks he has. I do not know why he does not look at the vote of the Organization of American States.

**An hon. Member:** Almost all of which are dictatorships.

**Mr. MacGuigan:** Only last week they voted 22 to 3 in favour of the election to be held in El Salvador. My comments to which he refers were made at an earlier time when conditions of the election were still to be determined, and we had hopes that more of the usual guarantees would be present. Subsequently we endeavoured to ensure that they would be present by proposing that negotiations take place between the parties. We will do our best to influence the parties in El Salvador in that direction.

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[Translation]

#### AGRICULTURE

INQUIRY WHETHER SUBSIDY FOR MILK PRODUCERS WILL BE MAINTAINED

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. The minister is no doubt aware of the concern among dairy producers, and of the possibly harmful effects, both for the consumer and for the producer, if milk subsidies are not maintained. In the circumstances, could the minister inform the House today whether he can give the dairy industry the assurance that the subsidy program will remain the same as it has been for a long time? I feel that the dairy industry needs a reply by December 31.

[English]

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member knows as well as I do that the dairy review is still under way. By his wish to see the program continued, the hon. member shows that he agrees that the dairy program has been a very good one. I am not in a position to tell him, or anyone else, what will be the new program. I can only tell the hon. member that we will make sure that it is a very good program for the dairy farmers of Canada. They want a good program and we want a good program.

#### Point of Order—Mr. Clark

[Translation]

INQUIRY WHETHER FIVE-YEAR AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED AND WHETHER \$2.66 SUBSIDY WILL BE MAINTAINED

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Madam Speaker, the minister may wish to reassure dairy producers, but he is certainly not doing so with the kind of answers he is giving today. The minister knows perfectly well that the Dairy Producers' Federation has to have his signature on the five-year plan. Can the minister inform us today whether he will sign the five-year plan by December 31, and also, can he inform us whether he has personally recommended that the subsidy be maintained at \$2.66 per hundredweight?

● (1500)

[English]

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, it is not a problem with us signing. At the present time it is a problem of getting all the provinces to sign that agreement. Some provinces have a concern about increasing their production for the domestic needs in their area of jurisdiction. They have not all agreed to sign that. That suggestion has been made to them. We have no problem with it. It does not necessarily have to be signed to continue on with the program. Some changes have been made by the majority of the producers and the provincial governments across Canada. The dairy commission has been negotiating that with the provinces. I met with one of the dairy commissioners last week. I believe there are two or three provinces that have not yet signed because they have certain reservations about parts of the agreement. I remind the hon. member that we have the best dairy policy in the whole world, and he knows that.

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[Translation]

#### PETITIONS

TABLING OF REPORTS OF CLERK OF PETITIONS

**Madam Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has laid upon the table reports of the Clerk of Petitions stating that he has examined the petitions presented by hon. members on Tuesday, December 15, 1981, and finds that they meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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[English]

#### POINTS OF ORDER

MR. CLARK—REQUEST THAT MR. OUELLET RETRACT HIS STATEMENT

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order to draw to the attention of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Ouellet) an inaccuracy in a statement he made to the House which