Oral Questions

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—POSITION OF GOVERNMENT ON APPLICABILITY OF GUIDELINES TO PROVINCIAL MARKETING BOARDS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact the minister is about to meet with the provincial finance ministers and, we understand from the press, that one of the subjects to be discussed is the inclusion of marketing boards under the legislation now before the House, will the minister advise what position he intends to place before his provincial counterparts? I ask this in view of his reply when the bill was before the committee that the present legislation cannot in fact force marketing boards to roll back prices if they cannot be justified.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, we are going to suggest to the provincial governments the same manner of control that we have suggested with regard to the two or three federal marketing boards which are in a position to set prices. While the Anti-Inflation Board will have the responsibility of monitoring increases in prices of particular products and making reports on them, the provincial agencies, which I understand exist throughout Canada for the purpose of monitoring the work of the marketing boards, should have responsibility for rolling back any prices which are in excess of the guidelines. As the hon, gentleman knows, I have suggested that the National Farm Products Marketing Council, in the case of federal marketing agencies, should have that responsibility, in the light of appropriate reports from the Anti-Inflation Board, to roll back prices which exceed the cost-price pass through factor proposed for other prices.

• (1430)

AGRICULTURE

EGGS—POSSIBLE DETERMINATION BY NATIONAL FARM PRODUCTS MARKETING COUNCIL OF JUSTIFICATION FOR PRICE INCREASE

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): A supplementary to the Minister of Agriculture who answers for the National Farm Products Marketing Council. It arises from the letter written by the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency to the Anti-Inflation Board in which the latest increase in the price of eggs is justified on the basis of an upward change in feed prices in one major province. Is the minister satisfied with this rationale, has he discussed this matter with the National Farm Products Marketing Council and does he intend to instruct the Council to determine to its satisfaction whether such an increase in the price of eggs can be justified at this time?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): I am meeting with the Farm Products Marketing Council later this day to discuss that matter.

Jerome and adding luster to the occasion. Fortunately, no points of order required your intervention. Also, may I ask the Prime Minister if he has a report for the House on the athletic and political disaster which overtook his team last Sunday? Would he accept this suggestion: that next year he stay home and send Justin alone? Before the Prime Minister replies, I would like to remind him, speaking of Polish Canadians, of the well-known Polish proverb which I will translate into French, "Demandez un bœuf pour avoir un œuf."

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I must join the hon. member in congratulating the Edmonton Eskimos for a very fine performance.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: I certainly cannot conceal that I was slightly disappointed with the result. I can tell the hon. member that I hedged my bets because my son Justin, who had the good fortune of sitting in the lap of the queen, drew conclusions. First, he was shouting for the Eskimos; second, he seemed very enthralled with the monarchy.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Apart from the Polish proverb, which I did not quite understand, my only puzzlement is why the hon. member for Edmonton Centre did not show up yesterday in the House of Commons.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

REASON FOR ALLEGED SEIZURE OF DOCUMENTS FROM MAIN CONTRACTORS FOR OLYMPIC VILLAGE

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put my question to the Solicitor General. Is he aware of the fact that the offices of the main contractors of the Olympic Games were raided this morning by the RCMP and other police forces, and COJO files with regard to the Olympic village were taken. Will the minister advise for what purpose these files were taken and whether he was aware of this?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, as I have mentioned over and over again, we do not discuss criminal investigations in the House of Commons.

Mr. Jelinek: Is the minister aware that Joseph Zappia, one of the men involved in the consortium of the Olympic village and who also had contracts for the packaging of Olympic coins as well as the packaging of the new postal stamp memorials, is involved in this and possibly Senator Giguère as well? Is that the reason—

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, the opposition seems to have a lot of information with respect to these cases. If the hon. member has some additional information, he should see the police privately, rather than raising this in the House of Commons.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!