

the opposition. Until they get that out of their heads they will not be able to make any contribution to the resolution of our difficulties.

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METRIC CONVERSION

REQUEST FOR DELAY IN APPLICATION TO LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS

Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In light of the fact that on June 3, the hon. member for Wetaskiwin and I tabled a petition in the House which contained more than 1,000 names asking for a delay in the use of metric in the specific instance as it would apply to auction markets, since livestock sellers believe that there is a uniqueness between fixed price buying and the very rapid and instantaneous judgments of auction-buying, does the minister believe that there is a unique difference between buying over the counter when you have time to make judgments, and the rapid auction-buying?

Mr. Korchinski: Think fast, Eugene.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, I was not aware that the hon. member had anything to do with submitting such a petition. All I know is that 87 per cent of agriculture is completed as far as going metric is concerned. The other 13 per cent should be finished by the end of 1982 and early 1983. I do know that we have met with the people representing the red meat industry, both the Canada Pork Council and the Canada Meat Packers Council, and discussed this very issue. I did not find that much objection to it. We met with the people running the auction marts earlier in the year and did not find that much objection to it, either, when it was clearly explained to them.

● (1500)

REQUEST THAT MINISTER CONSIDER UNIQUENESS OF LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS

Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot): Quite naturally, the minister would not find any unique difference when he asked the packing plants, which are part of the red meat industry, whether or not they could convert to metric, because it is very simple there. However, when making an instantaneous judgment, a cautious buyer using metric at an auction who bids one cent a pound less could cost a large rancher up to \$6,000 worth of loss in his annual sales. I would like to ask the minister again whether he would consider the information.

Would the minister take a look at the uniqueness, as it affects the large sales of all stock from auction markets, and make representations to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce to protect that industry until the judgment of the nomenclature, or the use of the new auction language, is instantaneous with the judgment of value which is necessary in auctioning live cattle?

Petitions

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, there is no doubt about what the hon. member says, that buying or selling cattle at an auction mart does take people of certain expertise who understand the total cattle marketing system. These people do have to make quick decisions; there is no doubt about that. I will consider what the hon. member is talking about but, as I have said, we met with the people who were running the markets earlier this year—

An hon. Member: Not the farmers.

Mr. Whelan:—and, as I say, I did not find great resentment over it, but I will look at it again.

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PRIVILEGE

MR. ROBINSON (BURNABY)—NOTICE OF QUESTION TO BE RAISED

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege relating to a matter which I raised in the House on June 2 last, concerning which I only today received further information. It relates to political interference in the hiring of—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I thought the hon. member was rising on a question of privilege concerning the deliberations on this day. If the question of privilege concerns prior matters, he will have to send me a notice with a brief statement about the subject of his question of privilege. I am afraid that I cannot hear him today because his question did not arise out of the deliberations of today.

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PETITIONS

MR. MILLER—STUDENTS' PETITION FOR PEACE

Mr. Ted Miller (Nanaimo-Alberni): Madam Speaker, the students of Qualicum Beach Middle School wish the House to be aware of their concern and the concerns of their fellow students in School District No. 69 in the Nanaimo-Alberni constituency.

It is my pleasure and duty to present the 1,577 names of students in grades 2 to 12 contained in a "Students Petition for Peace". The petition calls upon this House and the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) to end the worldwide build-up of nuclear and chemical weapons and to have the billions of dollars currently spent on war spent on life, not death, on earth.

I pray this House will respond to their worry and the trust they have in their country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!