

Mr. Murta: It has been stated by the Ontario section of the egg marketing board that Ontario will rescind their agreement and pull out by September 1 if some form of controls has not been introduced into the egg situation in Canada. Is the government moving in this direction? If so, in what respect is there a move towards having some kind of control over the egg situation?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, we must remember first and foremost that this is a producer group trying to work together, working through their provincial marketing boards. They are working in conjunction with CEMA to try to develop an effective plan. I have no way of knowing whether some are trying to pull out. It is in their interests to make this plan work and if more of them pull out the less chance it has of succeeding.

● (1440)

SUGGESTION IMPORT CONTROLS OFFERED CONDITIONAL UPON SIGNING AGREEMENT WITH CANADIAN EGG MARKETING AGENCY

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Statements before previous CEMA hearings indicate that two of the minister's predecessors promised quick implementation of import controls as an inducement for provinces to join an egg marketing plan. Can the minister tell us whether it is now government policy to offer import controls on the condition that the CEMA agreement be signed and ratified first, and if so does he view this as a reversal of government policy and a contributing factor of opposition to the agreement by the majority of the provinces?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): I am amazed that the hon. member, who I believe is familiar with the laws of the land, since he is a lawyer, should suggest that this was being held up as a carrot. He knows as well as I do that if the supply-management program is in order one does not get into difficulty with one's trading partners, and it is up to the producers to look after this themselves if they want to make the plan work.

NATIONAL FARM PRODUCTS MARKETING COUNCIL—DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): I am sorry if the minister misunderstood or chose to misinterpret my question. Before the CEMA inquiry, as well as later, he promised an announcement concerning the appointment of consumer representatives to the National Farm Products Marketing Council. Is the hon. gentleman now in a position to inform the House when such an announcement will be made?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): No, Mr. Speaker, because I want to make sure that if we have a council it will have something to manage.

Oral Questions

IMMIGRATION

NEED FOR FARM WORKERS IN NOVA SCOTIA—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In his absence, I will direct it to the parliamentary secretary or to the acting minister. I believe the minister is a just man and that my difficulties with his department can be resolved. My question arises from the fact that farmers in central Nova Scotia, who have been able to employ up to 14 Dutch farm workers in the past two years, will, this year, have none. Would the hon. gentleman plough through the red tape to achieve justice?

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ENERGY

PROPOSED ENRICHED URANIUM PLANT IN QUEBEC—PREFEASIBILITY STUDY BY SERU—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT'S POSITION

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Would the hon. gentleman tell us whether he has received a copy of the recently completed "prefeasibility study" into an enriched uranium plant in the James Bay area which was conducted by SERU, and the James Bay Development Corporation?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): No, Mr. Speaker, I have not received a copy.

Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Given the implications of the study for the federal government which has control over the export of uranium and nuclear technology, does the minister intend to ask for a copy of this study and will he undertake to make a statement setting out the government's position regarding it, bearing in mind that enriched uranium cannot be utilized in Canada?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I would certainly be very interested in seeing this study and if it provides a basis for a useful statement I will be glad to make one.

OIL—POSSIBLE PRICE INCREASE BY OPEC COUNTRIES—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO PROTECT ATLANTIC PROVINCES

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Does he now have definite information that it is the intention of the OPEC countries to further increase the world price of oil and, if so, what contingency plans has the government prepared in order to cope with such an eventuality in the light of the fact that the Atlantic provinces will be dependent on offshore oil producers for some time into the future?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): As the hon. gentleman knows, the compensation program has, in the past, protected the Atlantic provinces from the effects of this kind of increase and it