

*Inquiries of the Ministry***AGRICULTURE****FARM PRODUCTS MARKETING BILL—SUGGESTED REFERENCE TO SUPREME COURT OF CANADA**

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): In light of the Prime Minister's answer with regard to Bill C-176, which he feels can remedy the present situation of no free trade between the provinces, I should like to ask him whether he is prepared to refer that bill to the Supreme Court of Canada to determine whether it is *intra vires* or *ultra vires* and thus confirm or otherwise the position he has taken in the House as to its constitutionality?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The bill is before the House. Surely the proper procedure is for the House to adopt the bill and then, if some citizens believe it to be *ultra vires*, they can refer it to the Supreme Court. The government of Canada obviously drafted the bill with the advice of its legal officers and we have presented a bill which in our view is fully constitutional. I find it strange that when we are being told by many provinces that this bill is needed to remedy the situation, the opposition—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I do not think I should interfere unduly, but it seems to me we are again, as we did yesterday for a good part of the question period, engaging in a debate on Bill C-176 which is otherwise before the House.

Mr. Woolliams: May I ask one more supplementary question, because this is important. We shall not even have a parliament if confederation breaks up, and that is what we are talking about. I should like to put this question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact there are plenty of precedents for the government of Canada asking the Supreme Court to determine the constitutionality of legislation would the Prime Minister be prepared to take such a course—yes or no?

Mr. Trudeau: The answer is no. I must add, Mr. Speaker, that it is difficult to understand how, the government having proposed a measure which would precisely prevent the balkanization of Canada—

Mr. Horner: You will balkanize Canada.

Mr. Trudeau: A request for marketing boards by the agricultural section of the economy has been made at least since I have been around, and now the government is at last moving forward with such a bill. The government has caused it to bog down for more than a year in the House and now they are suggesting it be delayed further by the making of a reference to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Hon. members will be recognized, but we have to give others an opportunity to ask questions.

[Later:]

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I was talking about slips of the tongue and I am told I made one a moment ago. Perhaps I might be allowed to correct it. It had to do with Bill C-176.

[Mr. MacEachen.]

Mr. Horner: Don't misrepresent it.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): You were right the first time.

Mr. Trudeau: Apparently I said it had been slowed down by the government.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: Everyone knows that it is the hon. member for Crowfoot in particular who has been slowing it down.

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STATUS OF WOMEN**IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): My question is directed to the Prime Minister. As it is some time since I inquired about the intention of the government with regard to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women, may I inquire whether the right hon. gentleman is now in a position to give a progress report and tell us what the government intends to do?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I did say, the last time I answered the question, that the government had taken steps to make sure that each department was examining the report to ensure that its legislation and its policy reflected the studies of the commission. I might add that this needs co-ordination at the ministerial level, and I have asked the energetic Minister without Portfolio responsible for housing to ensure this co-ordination between the various departments.

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CITIZENSHIP**EXTENSION TO CHILDREN THROUGH MOTHER AS WELL AS FATHER**

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): May I direct a question to the Minister of Immigration. Does his department intend to extend right of citizenship through the mother as well as through the father to children who are in need of such status?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): That question should properly be directed to the Minister without Portfolio responsible for citizenship when he is in the House.

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[Translation]

HOUSING**SUGGESTED DECREASE IN INTEREST RATE FOR PEOPLE ON LOW INCOMES**

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister without Portfolio responsible for housing.