

AGRICULTURE

PROPOSAL THAT EGG MARKETING AGENCY BE SOLE IMPORTER—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. In light of reports that the National Food Products Marketing Council has recommended that CEMA be appointed first receiver of imported eggs, does this mean that agency will replace those in the private sector as the sole importer of eggs? Can the minister advise whether he supports that recommendation of the Council? If so, has he urged its acceptance upon his cabinet colleagues?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have already made my feelings public. I am sure the hon. member is aware of them. I do support it and I have recommended to my cabinet colleagues that they study it. They are doing this at the present time. No decision has yet been made.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

PROPOSAL THAT EGG MARKETING AGENCY BE SOLE IMPORTER—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, I will direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Has the minister had an opportunity to review the recommendation of the National Food Products Marketing Council? Is he now in accord with the recommendation that CEMA be designated first receiver and thus become the sole importer of eggs into Canada?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have never been in favour of CEMA being first receiver of eggs into Canada, thus creating a monopoly situation of which I do not approve. Nothing in the Council's argument has changed my opinion.

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NORTHERN AFFAIRS

ALLEGED STATEMENTS OF MR. SEARLE CONCERNING SOCIAL SECURITY AND JUSTICE BERGER—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In light of remarks by Mr. David Searle last week to the effect that federal social security programs should be cut in the north, will the minister tell the House whether this prominent Liberal spokesman was speaking on behalf of the government?

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, as hon. members know, Mr. Searle is the Speaker and a member of the Northwest Territories Council. He was speaking in his own right as an elected representative, not for the federal government.

Oral Questions

Mr. Neil: Does the minister approve of the statements of David Searle concerning the ethics of Mr. Justice Berger, a federal government appointee?

Mr. Buchanan: No, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to receiving the report of Mr. Justice Berger.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST GOVERNMENT URGE POLAND TO ALLOW REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES IN CANADA

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the fact that Canada strongly supported the agreement on the reunification of families signed in Helsinki last year or the year before, will he now avail himself of the opportunity during the forthcoming visit of the Minister of External Affairs from Poland to urge that country to liberalize or relax its regulations and restrictions with regard to the reunification of Polish citizens and their families in Canada?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I certainly intend to take advantage of the presence of the Polish foreign minister in Ottawa later this week to discuss the question of family reunification, as I did on the occasion of my visit to Poland some months ago. I should say to my hon. friend that since that discussion, there has been some improvement and some action on a number of such cases. I hope the discussion this week will serve as a further impetus to additional solutions.

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IMMIGRATION

SUGGESTION CANADA AID THE RESETTLEMENT OF EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS IN ITALY

Mr. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Have instructions gone out to immigration officials in Milan to facilitate the handling of cases with regard to family reunification and other cases on humanitarian and compassionate grounds concerning the victims of the earthquake in Italy?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we have been in telephone conversation with our representative in Milan. He reports that at the moment there is no significant increase in the number of applications. In any event, we have asked him to go from Milan to visit the stricken area and give us a further report. In the meantime, our instructions are that all applications by residents of Northern Italy will be processed with very high priority. We are identifying whether such applicants have a sponsor or relatives in Canada who can sponsor or nominate them. That information will be communicated to the relevant immigration office in Canada so that we can look up the relatives and