

Oral Questions

address my question to the President of the Privy Council and Minister of National Revenue. Given the fact that souvenirs and other trinkets commemorating the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow are being manufactured through the use of forced labour, according to the first-hand testimony of many Soviet dissidents, including the 11 that the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs met with just last month, will the minister, in the name of the Government of Canada, denounce this practice and impose an immediate ban on the importation, handling, sale and purchase of these articles in Canada?

Hon. Walter Baker (President of Privy Council and Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the practice which has existed according to the allegation or the statement of the hon. member. The member having made the statement in the House today, I will undertake to investigate it on his behalf.

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[*Translation*]

INDUSTRY

POULTRY INDUSTRY IN QUEBEC

Mr. Marcel Ostiguy (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, but in his absence I will direct it to the Minister of Agriculture. Were representations made to the minister by spokesmen for the chicken industry in Ontario and Quebec responding to information bulletin No. 126 directed to importers and dated October 19, 1979? If so, why does the government persist in delivering additional import permits to the Maple Lodge company while chicken meat is piling up every day in Quebec and Ontario warehouses where fresh chicken must be frozen or sold in another form?

[*English*]

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, in response to the hon. member's question, he must recognize that in accordance with the regulation and law respecting the issuing of import and export permits it is necessary to provide import permits when the product is not available in Canada.

With reference to the particular processor the hon. member mentioned, it is true that a few days ago the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce received a request for the issuance of an import permit to the extent of about 1.2 million pounds of broilers and about 500,000 pounds of roasters. I must give my colleague, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, credit because he refused to issue that import permit without asking the national board to supply the processor from Canadian sources.

The national agency was able to secure about half of the necessary product with respect to broilers and about half of the necessary product with respect to roasters. Therefore, we must understand that every effort was made. In fact, we even went

[Mr. Flis.]

as far as the province of New Brunswick to find available birds.

An hon. Member: What for?

Mr. Wise: Therefore, we have picked up—

Some hon. Members: Order.

[*Translation*]

POULTRY IMPORT QUOTAS

Mr. Marcel Ostiguy (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Minister of Agriculture. Did the government discuss the mechanisms of chicken imports quotas with representatives of the poultry farming industry? I ask this question, Mr. Speaker, because poultry farmers have been told, when making representations to officials on basic import quotas, that the government has already dictated a policy without the poultry farming industry having been consulted.

[*English*]

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, that is just not true because I have been consulting the industry and also individuals within the total industry almost on a daily basis. The member can shake his head negatively, but I know with whom I met. I have met with them on a very frequent and regular basis. In fact, I am meeting with a group tomorrow morning.

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ENERGY

PRICE OF OIL—EFFECT ON TOURIST INDUSTRY

Mr. Gary F. McCauley (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The government is planning a major increase in the price of oil, and the tourist industry in this country is a vital part of our economy. It is a \$11 billion business, 5 per cent of the gross national product of the country, and it employs over one million people. Given those facts, has the government conducted any studies on the impact of major increases in the price of oil on the tourist industry?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member will understand if I point out to him that unless we take some new steps with respect to bringing about energy self-sufficiency, we will not have the necessary supplies in order to sustain a viable tourist industry. For example, the cost of gasoline is substantially below the levels now being paid in the United States, as has been pointed out on a number of occasions in this House.

Mr. McCauley: Mr. Speaker, I do not think the minister's answer will satisfy the tourist industry in this country. I would ask him specifically what measures the government will take to alleviate the high cost of energy when it comes to the industry?