

left—and probably in the minister's own riding—are short? How can he justify that shortage and at the same time import millions of pounds of offshore cheese? I think it is 50 million pounds.

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, the Ontario Milk Marketing Board distributes milk in Ontario. They distribute their share of the national quota; we do not distribute it. They say whether it will go to the cheese factories. At the present time their quota is reviewed every three months. They can make application to have it increased if they wish. They can do that if the production needs are there. Don't blame the dairy commission for that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I would ask the minister to resume his seat. This is developing into a debate, and it is not the time for debate. We have had a statement by two ministers. Questions should be related to those statements, and not to all policies of both departments. I see that the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, of whom a question has not been asked, wishes to comment on an answer by the minister. Unless he is rising on a point of order, we should proceed immediately to the introduction of bills.

Mr. Abbott: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. To use the words of the late C. D. Howe, perhaps this is degenerating into a debate. At the same time, I feel I should have an opportunity to clarify one answer to a question asked by the hon. member for St. John's East. The answer of the Minister of Agriculture was incomplete. He has taken words out of my mouth and used them in his own statement. I will not take very long, perhaps a minute or a minute and a half.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: If the minister is not to generate another debate and bring the hon. member for St. John's East to his feet, I will give him the opportunity, as I would any hon. member, to make a point of clarification. However, I invite him to do it briefly and be to the point.

Mr. Abbott: Mr. Speaker, the point of clarification I want to make is that the Minister of Agriculture is quite right to support the schemes that now exist. He stated, quite accurately, the broiler marketing plan has been the subject of public hearings and is up for consideration by cabinet; but I said, expressing a personal view, that I would regret it if the supply-management concept was extended to many more commodities than it now applies to.

Mr. McGrath: That is exactly what he said.

Mr. Gray: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. It is my impression that this question period is not limited to people on only one side of the House. I wish to ask a question related to the statements that have been made.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member did not rise in his place during the time of the question period. After I told the hon. member for Perth-Wilmot that he was the last questioner, and the hon. member saw an argument developing, he saw a reason to ask a question. In order to be fair to members of the

government as well, I will recognize the hon. member, but on principle and not because the hon. member has helped himself to be recognized.

Mr. Gray: I appreciate your courtesy, Mr. Speaker. I guess I was not popping up high enough earlier in the period. I wish to ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs a brief question. He said it was not a case of the government launching an over-all investigation into the food industry. I recall the statement by the Minister of Agriculture that there was to be a "review" of the "total marketing structure", including marketing boards. Can the minister assist us by explaining exactly what kind of study is going to be carried on? Will it be anything more than the usual attention of the director of competition policies with regard to certain sectors of the economy or will it be, as implied by the Minister of Agriculture, something new, extensive and total in line with the spirit I understand is intended for this green paper?

Mr. Abbott: Mr. Speaker, the director of combines and inquiries was perhaps highlighted by the fact that he did decide to make a study of the whole area of marketing boards and their effect on competition. Pursuant to this, he held a seminar which was within his authority. That seminar or inquiry was just one more aspect of his inquiry. I do not think it implies there will be a profound investigation in this area.

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FISHERIES

PETITIONS REQUESTING GREATER PROTECTION FOR SEALERS

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has laid upon the table the eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth reports of the Clerk of Petitions stating that he has examined the petitions presented by the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath), the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall), the hon. member for Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador (Mr. Rompkey), and the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie), and finds that they meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: 1,491, 1,701, 1,785, 2,227 and 2,342.