

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Further to the statement by the Prime Minister to the effect that the opposition is responsible for the difficulties in connection with Bill C-176, I would like to point out that it is the farmers of Canada who object to the enactment of that bill.

[English]

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct another supplementary question to the Prime Minister as he misunderstood my last question. I was not referring to bills that may or may not be declared law by this Parliament; I was referring to the law as the Supreme Court of Canada has now interpreted it. Is the government prepared to uphold the law as now declared by the Supreme Court of Canada, not some bill that may or may not become law?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

INTERPROVINCIAL MARKETING—DELEGATION OF ADDITIONAL POWERS TO PROVINCIAL MARKETING BOARDS

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a further supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture. I understood his answer to mean that he was prepared to enter into further debate on Bill C-176, but that was not my question. I asked him specifically whether he would report to the House on the further powers he is prepared to give provincial marketing boards and whether he would give that information before the House rises tomorrow?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member is aware that the powers delegated under the Agricultural Products Marketing Act are delegated in response to requests by provincial marketing agencies or, more particularly, by their governments. Most of the provinces, indeed all of them, that have been in contact with me this morning have advised me they have not yet in their possession the complete context of the judgment and they wish to study that before they make requests for the kind of powers to which the hon. member is referring. Certainly I cannot answer his question until I have received those requests.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, would the minister indicate which provinces he did not contact? He said he contacted some, but what provinces did he not contact and why not?

Mr. Olson: There were several provinces that called me. I did not telephone them.

Mr. Woolliams: That certainly clears things up. I should like to ask a further supplementary. Did the minister contact any province or provinces and, if so, why, and if he did not, why not?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Mr. Speaker.]

[Translation]

FARM PRODUCTS MARKETING AGENCIES BILL—REQUEST FOR DEBATE BEFORE SUMMER RECESS

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member for Joliette wish to ask a supplementary question?

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I wish to address a question to the hon. Minister of Agriculture.

Being aware that the right hon. Prime Minister's statement is perfectly justified and considering that House members are interested in the problems of concern to farmers, I wish to ask the hon. Minister of Agriculture whether he would be willing to suggest a limited debate before tomorrow night on this matter with a view to passing Bill C-176 which would it seems deal with these problems?

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would hope that very soon we might move along and leave Bill C-176. I am sure it is an important piece of legislation but it is not before the House at the moment. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Athabasca on a last supplementary question and then recognize the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister whether he now plans to change anything in Bill C-176 as a result of the Supreme Court ruling?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Again I suggest to hon. members that we are at this time debating in some detail a bill which is not before the House at this moment. This is the question period. I do not think we should go into the details of a bill which might come up for consideration perhaps even later today.

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OIL

PROPOSED TAPS TANKER ROUTE—ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS TO SECRETARY OF STATE ROGERS DURING DISCUSSIONS

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and arises out of the recent discussions he had with Secretary of State Rogers concerning the TAPS program which envisages bringing oil tankers down the coast of British Columbia. During his discussions with Secretary Rogers did the minister make any proposals for alternative routes which would avoid the necessity of tankers going through the Strait of Juan de Fuca or the Strait of Georgia?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, my objective was to avoid tankers going through these narrow waters, and in this I am sure I reflect his views as well. Of course we did not express