

Inquiries of the Ministry

spending so much money on computers and computer services, is it the intention of the minister's department to set up a special agency to co-ordinate the use of computers and computer programs in government service?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, such an agency or co-ordinating body is now in operation. All the computing facilities of the government are being looked at as a whole and work programmed within those facilities to make the best use of them.

Mr. Hales: Under whose jurisdiction does the agency responsible come?

Mr. Drury: The Department of Supply and Services, Mr. Speaker.

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AGRICULTURE

PROVISION OF LISTS OF NAMES OF IMPORTERS OF EUROPEAN CATTLE

Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Agriculture. It arises from the fact that continuing requests are being made for lists of names of those who imported European cattle in the 1970-71 season. The minister's office indicated some weeks ago that these lists would be supplied. When will they be available?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I will look into it immediately.

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TRANSPORT

ATLANTIC PROVINCES—INQUIRY AS TO STATEMENT ON POLICY

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transport. In the debate today on transportation policy, is the minister going to make the long awaited and often promised statement on Atlantic transportation policy?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Wait and see, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Nowlan: A supplementary question. I thought I would get a flippant answer to a serious question. I am going to sit in the House and see to it that the minister does make a statement. That answer did not surprise me at all, and it will not surprise the people of Atlantic Canada who are being sold short by the minister because he is not doing his duty.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Annapolis Valley on a supplementary, but we should try as much as possible to reserve our fire for the debate which will start in a few moments.

Mr. Nowlan: My supplementary is very serious and sensible, but the answer the minister just gave indicates his

[Mr. Hales.]

frame of mind. The people of Atlantic Canada are being raped by the indecision and inaction of this minister.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nowlan: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is using up the rest of the time we have for the question period. Perhaps he might ask his supplementary.

Mr. Nowlan: Will this statement, concerning which I have been told to wait and see, include a report on the further freight rate increase the Railway Association of Canada has announced will be filed with the Canadian Transport Commission on June 19? What is the minister going to do about that?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, out of all that verbiage the only thing I can make out to be a question is, what is the minister going to do about the announced freight rate increase. As the hon. member knows, the minister is not empowered to do anything about these freight rate increases.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. There has been some discussion about the length of speeches in the debate today.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps we might wait for just a moment until there is order in the House. The hon. member for Peace River might then make his comments on his point of order.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, there has been discussion among the House leaders with regard to the length of speeches on the supply motion today. It has been suggested that we follow the terms of the Standing Order for the first speaker of our party, in whose name the motion stands, and for the first speaker on the government side in response. The first speakers of the other two parties would each have 20 minutes, pursuant to the rule. All other speakers will be allowed 15 minutes. It should be clearly understood that there will be no exception for anyone.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, the statement just made by the hon. member for Peace River represents the arrangements to which we have agreed, especially that there be no overtime.

Mr. Speaker: If it is agreed, it will be ordered by the Chair that the debate be conducted on the basis mentioned by the hon. member for Peace River and agreed to by other hon. members. Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It is so ordered.