

Order Paper Questions

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS—METRIC CONVERSION

Question No. 2,106—Mr. McKnight:

1. Was there a change in the labelling of farm chemicals from per acre measurement to hectare measurement and, if so (a) under what authority (b) on what date (c) for what reason?

2. Did the Metric Commission receive briefs requesting that the labelling of agricultural chemicals be in hectares rather than in acres and, if so, from which organizations and industries?

3. Does the chemical industry have to comply with the hectare changeover requirement and, if so (a) since what date (b) what is the penalty for non-compliance?

Mr. D. M. Collett (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):

I am informed by the Departments of Agriculture and Industry, Trade and Commerce as follows: 1. Yes.

- (a) Under the authority of regulations under the Pest Control Products Act administered by Agriculture Canada.
- (b) Effective from January 1, 1981, labels and instructions for those products governed by PCP regulation are required to show metric units only.
- (c) In accordance with the recommendation made by the agricultural chemicals industry in Canada, in support of Canada's conversion to the metric system of measurements to achieve the policy goal stated in the 1970 White Paper on Metric Conversion in Canada, that "... a single, coherent measurement system based on metric units should come to be used for all measurement purposes required under legislation, and generally be accepted for all measurement purposes".

2. In order to achieve the policy goal of Canada's metric conversion, Metric Commission Canada established a structure of steering and sector committees, covering all sectors of the economy, with representatives of industries, businesses, labour, consumers, education and appropriate government departments and agencies. As part of this structure, the Canadian Agricultural Chemicals Association has been participating in the sector committee for chemicals and chemical products, which is responsible for the investigation, planning, scheduling and implementation of metric conversion in its area of interest. The Canadian Agricultural Chemicals Association has also been operating its own metric conversion committee, which has been feeding the association's input to the metric conversion plan developed by the sector committee. At its fifth meeting on March 21, 1974, the sector committee adopted the National Standard of Canada—Canadian Metric Practice Guide as the governing document for metric units to be used by the industry. At the eighth meeting of the sector committee on November 21, 1974, in discussing the development of a sector plan for metric conversion, the representative of the Canadian Agricultural Chemicals Association stated that his industry would find metric conversion advantageous, resulting in a standardization of containers. These decisions are reflected in the metric conversion plan prepared by the sector

committee and approved for publication by Metric Commission Canada on October 26, 1976.

In May, 1976, the Canadian Agricultural Chemicals Association through its metric conversion committee published a recommended list of units and container sizes to replace imperial units and sizes. In April, 1979, the association published an expanded Metric Practice Guide for the Canadian pesticides industry. The adoption of metric units meant that acres were replaced by hectares.

Recognizing that agricultural chemicals are controlled by government regulations pertaining to their sale and usage, that industry has been in continual consultation with Agriculture Canada with respect to the timing of metric conversion and also the usage instructions in metric units. In April, 1977, the Canadian Agricultural Chemicals Association wrote to Agriculture Canada requesting them to "arrange for a change in the measurements used in the Pest Control Products Act from the present system to SI units." On October 3, 1977, the association wrote again to Agriculture Canada on the matter of hectare versus acre and noted that "a system using part SI and part non-metric would ... create a state of confusion and introduce the possibility of greater errors ..."

At its eighteenth meeting on September 13, 1977, the sector committee on Chemicals and Chemical Products went on record as unanimously adopting the hectare for land measurement.

3. Yes (a) January, 1981. (b) Prosecution under the Pest Control Products Act.

CBOT NATIONAL NEWS COVERAGE

Question No. 2,218—Mr. Cossitt:

1. Are any steps planned by CBC to improve the calibre and to increase the scope of national news coverage by CBOT TV in Ottawa and, if so, what are they?

2. Is the viewing audience for the 6 p.m. CBOT newscast below that for the 6 p.m. CJOH newscast and, if so, by what amount?

3. Does CBC channel 4 carry as much (a) national and parliamentary (b) regional news as CTV channel 13 and, if not, for what reason?

Mr. Peter Stollery (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State and Minister of Communications):

I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as follows: 1. The CBC considers that the calibre and scope of CBOT's national news coverage is already excellent. "The National" at 11 p.m. daily provides CBOT and other CBC network stations with thorough and complete coverage of national news. The full resources of the CBC's national news department are available for such CBOT local news programs as "Newsday", which receives national and other news items fed from the network. In addition, wide national news coverage is provided by the programs named below in the answer to part 3. All CBC stations constantly strive to improve their productions as staff and funds permit, and CBOT is no exception.

2. See reply to question No. 1,968 answered April 2, 1981.

3. CBOT carries local, regional, national and international news as follows: