

mittee which speaks of special measures to get food on the tables of the low-income people in this country?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I can assure the hon. member that if we have a policy statement to make while the House is sitting it will be made in this place, Mr. Speaker.

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): Can we have the assurance that such a policy statement will be made before we adjourn for the summer recess?

Mr. Trudeau: It may depend on when we adjourn, Mr. Speaker.

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AGRICULTURE

EFFECT OF UNITED STATES FEED GRAIN EXPORT EMBARGO ON CANADIAN LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTION—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the embargo placed by the President of the United States on the export of feed grains and protein supplements and the adverse effect this will have not only on the poultry and livestock industries but on the cost of many food products, will the minister come to the House on Tuesday and make a definitive statement on what the government intends to do about this so that all the companies in Canada depending on these feed grains and protein supplements will know where they stand before the escalation of costs really starts to accelerate?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, as I said yesterday, we have been in contact with officials in the different parts of Canada, with provincial governments and with the people who supply proteins, checking on the supply of proteins, on how many days or week's supply of protein we have in Canada and what our needs are until the new crop of soybeans is ready. Once these figures are known, if action needs to be taken it will be taken. These figures were not final at the time of coming into the House but they may be final later this day.

Mr. Nowlan: One thing at least is certain, that we are heading into a long weekend and how long this session is going to continue, until July, August or September, is unknown. Can the minister assure the House that he will make a statement some time next week, Tuesday or Wednesday, so that the uncertainty, confusion and real concern of livestock producers and poultrymen across the country can be somewhat alleviated if at all possible?

Mr. Whelan: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Oral Questions

ENERGY

POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER RESTRICTION OF OIL AND GAS EXPORTS AND TWO-PRICE SYSTEM

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and arises out of the study he tabled last night. In view of the fact this study is clearly based on the assumption that Canada will continue its present rate of export of gas and oil and perhaps even a higher rate of export, and in view of the fact the study makes clear that Canadians face escalating costs for both oil and gas, fuel oil, gasoline and so on, may I ask the minister whether he is now considering not waiting for a year until he announces his promised energy policy but restricting exports of oil and gas at this time below what are now being allowed?

● (1120)

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member should go back and take a look at the document. It does not in any sense indicate that the exports will continue at their present level or that they will be increased. Indeed, one of the policy choices that I think is clearly outlined there is the possibility of another structure of the Canadian market so there would be less by way of export. I think the hon. member would be well advised to take another look at the document.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I assure the minister that I will. He took four years to read the document; I think I am entitled to have at least one day to read it.

Mr. Trudeau: Then ask the question next week. Take the weekend.

Mr. Lewis: No, Mr. Speaker. Arising out of the minister's answer, if there is in the document an option of lowering exports, I repeat my question to the minister: Is he considering doing so now before a crisis is upon this country in energy resources available to Canadians at reasonable prices?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I can see that the hon. member might feel there is political advantage in creating a panic atmosphere, but he will have noticed, I am sure, even from the summary, that we are talking about the supply of oil and natural gas in the 1980s. Perhaps the hon. gentleman might like to examine the document first, and then I will be glad to deal with his questions.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I hope the minister will stop trying to be smart, mainly because he seldom succeeds. I was present at the briefing yesterday and listened to what his officials had to say and I have an idea what is in the book.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member might now ask his supplementary.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that—this kind of language is apparently necessary—I was present at the briefing yesterday and heard what his officials had to say and have some idea of what is in the report, I want