

## Oral Questions

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

GOOSE BAY AIR BASE—LAY OFF OF CANADIAN  
CIVILIANS—POSSIBLE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE  
UNITED STATES

**Mr. William Rompkey (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the layoffs of Canadian civilians at the Goose Bay air base on Monday and the problems with regard to pensions and severance pay, can the minister inform the House whether an approach was made to the government of the United States and what was that approach?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I understand that few Canadians are to lose their jobs as a result of the new arrangements at Goose Bay, because the Ministry of Transport will be hiring virtually all the civilian employees now working for the United States air force. A small number of what the United States air force calls "non-appropriated fund employees" may become unemployed. This group is not entitled to the same pension and other benefits as those employed directly by the U.S. air force. However, we have asked the United States government, through diplomatic channels, to give sympathetic consideration to their case.

\* \* \*

## FINANCE

TARIFF ON IMPORTATION OF BEEF AND BEEF CATTLE—  
GOVERNMENT POSITION ON RE-INTRODUCTION

**Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Is it the minister's intention to re-introduce the tariff which he unilaterally took off on February 20, 1973, on the importation of beef and beef cattle to Canada?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, we are reviewing all manufacturing and agricultural products that may or may not be adversely affected, either by way of employment or production. We are reviewing cattle and beef along with the rest of the items.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Perth-Wilmot and then call orders of the day. I apologize to the hon. member, but he will notice that we have gone beyond the time allotted for the question period. I was trying to recognize a number of hon. members without supplementaries. That is why I will recognize the hon. member for Perth-Wilmot and then call orders of the day.

**Mr. Dick:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. On the last occasion on which I asked a question in this House, I rose on nine consecutive sitting days before I was able to do so. Before I was able to ask this question I have risen on five consecutive days. Following the recess, Your Honour might consider the possibility of looking into the corners of the House more frequently.

**Mr. Speaker:** I look in all corners, including that of the hon. member. I certainly have no objection to allowing the

[Mr. Gillespie.]

hon. member a supplementary. The Chair will then recognize the hon. member for Perth-Wilmot and then call orders of the day.

**Mr. Dick:** I wish to direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture. Has the minister made representations to the Minister of Finance to have the tariff on beef and beef cattle imports reintroduced?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. We have discussed this on many occasions. We in the Department of Agriculture are watching for evidence that there may be some damage. As I stated earlier in reply to a question, the movement of cattle to the United States is far greater than ever before and the movement into Canada from the United States is far less than ever before.

\* \* \*

## AGRICULTURE

CATTLE—POSSIBLE RE-STATEMENT OF USE OF  
DIETHYLSTILBESTROL OR PROHIBITION OF IMPORTS  
FROM UNITED STATES

**Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Because most members of this House who represent rural areas in Ontario, including I presume the Minister of Agriculture, are presently being inundated by correspondence from constituents who are beef producers, will the minister advise if he proposes to reinstate the use of DES implant or, in the alternative, to refuse entry to Canada of U.S. live slaughter cattle and dressed beef, one of which decisions appears necessary by May 1, the end of the 120 day withdrawal period?

• (1610)

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I have stated before that we would not see the beef producers of this country hurt in any way, and they are not being hurt. Some of the statements that are being made by members are more likely to hurt members of the beef industry than anything else since most of them are not accurate.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the hon. member for Timiskaming rising on a point of order?

**Mr. Peters:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to raise a point of order with the President of the Privy Council concerning the question period and its operation. I think my point of order affects most of the members of this House.

Since the advent of research assistants we have had two parts to the question period. There is the formal part of the question period consisting of written questions prepared from other sources which are presented to Your Honour in the form of a list. Then, there are other questions. I suggest to the President of the Privy Council who acts as government House leader, on behalf of the Speaker, that he meet with the other political parties and either formalize this arrangement or eliminate it. As an individual member of this House, my privilege is the same as that of any other individual member. There are no lists of