

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I find on checking that the quotas have been filled as follows: a total of 6,000 in student militia training; in the naval reserve, 900; first year 3,250, second year 1,850—that is in militia training. I should explain that last year's militia program was 7,850 and not 5,000 as mentioned by the hon. member. The total this year is 8,000, combining 6,000 in militia training and 2,000 civilian leadership candidates. The total program in armouries is limited to 4,150 as compared with over 7,000 last year. The remainder of the programs will be conducted in combat group training areas. I hope this is the information sought by the hon. member.

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AGRICULTURE**FARM MACHINERY—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF BARBER COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): My question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that the report of the Barber Commission was tabled several weeks ago, will the minister state when we can expect some statement from the government on whether it intends to act on any of the recommendations of the report?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): I think there will be statements from time to time, Mr. Speaker, but I should remind the hon. member that a great deal of action has been taken on some of the recommendations in an earlier report.

FARM MACHINERY—RESULTS OF ACTION ON BARBER COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Agriculture. Would the minister in a statement to the House indicate whether any significant results have been achieved as the result of the actions he has taken?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I think there is a very significant additional competitive factor in the sale of farm machinery in Canada that did not exist prior to—

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Order. I said at the beginning of the question period that I would allow the hon. member for Joliette to ask one supplementary question to the one he had asked earlier. I now invite him to do so.

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CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE**DISCUSSION OF AMENDING FORMULA**

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct my question to my favourite member, that is the Prime Minister.

[Mr. Marshall.]

Regarding the Victoria Conference, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he can assure us that the amending formula will be discussed only after the negotiations about provincial powers are completed?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. I tabled the agenda yesterday, and unless the provinces should want to modify it, it will remain as it is, that is to say that first the Constitution, and then social security will be discussed. But I think that it was agreed that no final decision will be taken on any item on the agenda before it has been discussed as a whole. And the federal government does not intend to exhaust an item and to exclude any possibility of bringing it up again.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order with respect to the order about to be called. When the special order for today was passed it was provided that this debate would be interrupted at six o'clock and the vote, if one is called, would be taken at that time. That is 15 minutes later than would be the case under the ordinary rules and it would cut into the dinner hour. There is also the fact that we will have more votes at eight o'clock. I think you will find there is agreement among the four parties that the debate today be interrupted at 5.45 p.m. so that with a 15-minute ringing of the bell the vote can be taken promptly at six o'clock.

While I am on my feet may I say that we are not suggesting any change in the order so far as time limits on speeches are concerned but we do suggest that no one ask for overtime.

Mr. MacLean: The suggestions of the hon. member are acceptable to the official opposition, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It is so ordered.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**BUSINESS OF SUPPLY****ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 58—NON-CONFIDENCE MOTION—GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL POLICIES—IMMEDIATE PAYMENT OF \$100 MILLION TO WESTERN FARMERS**

Mr. David Lewis (York South) moved:

That this House condemns the agricultural policies of the government which have severely reduced the income of western farmers and threaten the future of Canada's entire rural community, and, in view of the financial crisis of western farmers, calls on the government to consider the advisability of an immediate payout to them of a minimum of \$100 million without conditions and in addition to other farm assistance programs.