

[English]

AGRICULTURE

PROPOSED U.S. LEGISLATION AFFECTING CANADIAN MEAT EXPORTS

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture and concerns his meeting earlier this week with Mr. Lyng, the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States. In April of this year companion Bills were introduced into the United States Senate and the House of Representatives which would put a total moratorium on all fresh, chilled and frozen beef imports into the United States from Canada pending an investigation by the International Trade Commission. Did the Minister raise any concern about these companion Bills with the Secretary of Agriculture, and was he able to get a commitment from the Secretary that the President would veto these Bills if they passed in the House of Representatives and the Senate?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we had a very open, extensive, and frank discussion on a number of bilateral matters and, indeed, multilateral matters, with reference to North American and international conditions in the agricultural industry.

I am not certain to which specific issue the Hon. Member is referring. If he is referring to the countervail, which still exists with reference to Canadian pork being exported from Canada into the U.S., he will know that that decision is dealt with by a quasi-judicial body. It is quite separate and apart from any political intervention that any politician would want to make.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, I was referring to the two companion Bills in the House of Representatives and in the Senate which would place a moratorium on exports of fresh, frozen and chilled Canadian beef going into the U.S. Did the Minister discuss these Bills, which have been supported widely in the Senate and the House of Representatives, and did he get any commitment from Secretary Lyng that the President would veto any such Bill going through the Congress?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, that, along with other matters, was raised. I think it is fair to say that as far as Secretary Lyng is concerned he is very much against any further protectionist measures that would be taken on either side of the border.

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CHALLENGE '86

SUMMER STUDENT BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Secretary of State in

Oral Questions

charge of youth. I have just found out that the Government has spent some \$275,000 advertising a Summer Student Business Loan Program which is part of Challenge '86. All of this was done for 194 loans, and the maximum per student would be \$2,000.

Will the Minister now confirm her disappointment with the failure of this program, and can she tell us why the students have no confidence whatsoever in her Summer Student Business Loan Program?

Hon. Andrée Champagne (Minister of State (Youth)): Mr. Speaker, the Summer Student Business Loan Program is a new program. This is only the second year and we felt that it was important to have some advertising and to let the young people know about this program. Yes, I will agree with the Member for Yorkton—Melville that we are, in fact, disappointed that only the double as the number of students who applied last year to the program acquired loans to start a business. We will have to reassess this program for next year.

MANAGEMENT AND ADVERTISING COSTS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, since the original budget for this program was around the \$2 million mark can the Minister explain to the House why it cost more to publicize and administer the program than the students got in loans themselves? Is this the new version of sound conservative business practice?

Hon. Andrée Champagne (Minister of State (Youth)): Mr. Speaker, on a per job basis the cost has been \$967 including advertising, or \$325 per job. It is not that expensive. However, since we have seen that the program is not doing as well this year, I have already taken steps so that some of the money that will not be spent will go into the seed component of the program and young people will have the benefit of the money that is there for them.

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EXTERNAL AID

ETHIOPIA—EFFECT OF ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS

Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa—Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for External Relations. The generosity of Canadians and the Government toward drought relief in Africa, particularly Ethiopia, is quite remarkable. However, there are some concerns evolving with respect to the Ethiopian Government's forced action of villagization and resettlement schemes. Does the Minister believe that these Ethiopian actions are jeopardizing the effective use of our aid funds to that country?