

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, to the first part of the question I must unfortunately reply that I am not yet in a position to give a definite answer, due to the complex operation which consists in passing on powers from an already existing organization to the one we have just set up. As for the second part of the hon. member's question, I am also not in a position to provide him with an answer for the time being, but, in my opinion, he will be able to draw his own conclusions on the situation from the negotiations scheduled to take place next Tuesday with all the provincial ministers meeting in Ottawa.

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● (1450)

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

IMPOSITION OF IMPORT CONTROLS ON EGGS FROM UNITED STATES—POSSIBILITY OF COUNTERVAILING ACTION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Bearing in mind some of the statements made by the Minister of Agriculture in connection with quotas and our relations with the United States, I would ask the hon. gentleman whether he is aware of the letter sent by United States Senator Talmadge, the chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee to the President of the United States requesting that if quotas are imposed by Canada the United States should, possibly, take countervailing action? I ask this question in view of the somewhat strained relations which presently exist in connection with the movement of agricultural products between our two countries.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I am not aware of any such letter, Mr. Speaker, and I do not believe it is correct to describe relations between Canada and the United States in the agricultural field as strained in any way.

Mr. Murta: I differ with the Secretary of State on that point. However, I should like to address a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Since any breakdown in trade relations between our two countries would ultimately be to the detriment of the Canadian producer, and, very likely, it would be to the detriment of the Canadian consumer, I would ask the right hon. gentleman whether he is prepared to instruct that the Minister of Agriculture be sent to the United States immediately to confer with his counterpart there with a view to ensuring that no problems arise between the two countries in matters concerning agricultural trade.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I would remind the House that the Minister of Agriculture did meet with the United States Secretary of Agriculture a few months ago. I am glad the hon. member recognizes the persuasive powers of my colleague. There is no indication at this time that a further visit is needed.

Oral Questions

HEALTH

ALLEGED REDUCTION IN STANDARD OF MEDICAL CARE—SUGGESTED CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES ON LOWER COST PROGRAMS

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is the minister aware that as a result of provincial cuts the quality of medical care has dropped? I should also like to ask the minister whether, when he meets his counterparts in September, he intends to discuss aid, health and shared cost in the health cost programs below extended care?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I would answer the first part of the question by saying that the health statistics do not seem to bear out the view expressed by the hon. member. As to the second part of the question, a task force has been carrying on meetings with the provinces. Some provinces have not yet sent the information which was requested but I have asked that this information be made available to my officials by July 15 so that in the fall we might meet and consider the substitution of certain lower cost care for active treatment hospitals under the Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Service Act.

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HOUSING

SUSPENSION OF URBAN DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM—POSSIBILITY OF RESUBMITTING PROJECTS

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Kootenay): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to one which was asked by the hon. member for Bellechasse. It is directed to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. I assume that all the municipalities and organizations which submitted proposals to the urban demonstration project have been informed of the collapse of that program. As the destruction of that program has been billed as a suspension, may I ask whether the notice to the municipalities suggested any date for the resubmission of projects or has the minister reserved any for reconsideration?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am personally writing to the municipalities and to the proposers of each of the projects which I am returning indicating that the program is in suspension. This is something I am doing with deep regret because this is a program of great potential and it was received with great interest throughout the country. Nevertheless, it was felt that given the range of priorities this was a scheme which ought to be reduced or suspended. Since I did not want to build up any hopes, I did not name any date for the reintroduction of the program, if, indeed, this happens; I hope it will, I hope the program can be reintroduced. But I did not want to indicate when this might be, because I really do not have any idea myself. The priority, now, is to make the programs which are already in effect work well. Then, I think, we look ahead from there.