

tion of the recommendations presently before the House, after the 90-day period has expired it is not impossible for the government to put on the order paper additional recommendations that will give effect to some of these recommendations specifically with regard to urban areas?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's supplementary is in the form of a suggestion or submission.

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AGRICULTURE

PRAIRIE PROVINCES—ACTION TO IMPROVE NET FARM INCOME

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): I wish to direct my question to the Prime Minister. In view of the figures that have just been released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics which show that net farm income in Saskatchewan has dropped by 56 per cent in the past two years and in view of the fact that bills before the House will do little to seriously alter that situation, is the Prime Minister contemplating any emergency action to try to improve the farm income picture in western Canada?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will recognize that he has invited the Prime Minister, or someone on behalf of the government, to make a rather general statement. He might inquire whether such a statement will be made on motions in due course.

Mr. Nystrom: In that case, may I ask the Prime Minister if he will make a statement indicating whether he is planning any legislation to improve the farm income picture in western Canada in a serious way?

Mr. Horner: Call the by-election.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): As the hon. member for Crowfoot said a moment ago, there is a proposed sum of \$100 million in the offing, if the opposition can get on with the business of passing these bills.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Horner: I rise on a question of privilege. That legislation was first proposed in the House on October 29. Why did the minister not bring it in months ago? He did not have it drafted. We have not held it up.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to hon. members that during the question period we are now discussing legislation which is otherwise before Parliament. That is not in order.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

BILINGUAL PROGRAM—USE OF DELEGATED AUTHORITY—FEARS EXPRESSED BY HEADS OF EMPLOYEES' ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): My question is for the President of the Treasury Board. What action is the

Inquiries of the Ministry

government taking with regard to the fears expressed by Mr. Edwards of the Public Service Alliance and Mr. Barnes of the Professional Institute of the Public Service suggesting that the government's bilingual program for public servants is becoming bicultural and also that the use of delegated authority by government departments is compromising the merit system and introducing a form of patronage?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the conclusions drawn by the hon. member or the hypotheses of his question about the bilingual program are not well-founded. In relation to the second part of his question, I think the hon. member knows this was the subject of discussion in a parliamentary committee. The Treasury Board is now looking into it.

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[Translation]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

SUGGESTED AGREEMENT TO LIMIT DEBATE ON FARM PRODUCTS MARKETING BILL

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Privy Council.

In view of recently announced policies of Quebec and Ontario regarding the marketing of certain farm products and since in my opinion Bill C-176 could have corrective effects and opposition parties are anxious to arrive at an agreement, would the President of the Privy Council approach them in order to reach an agreement to limit debate on Bill C-176, which would demonstrate our determination to serve the best interests of Canadian farmers?

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's question sounds more like a submission or recommendation. I do not think it can be accepted as a question. I have some doubts whether or not we are straying somewhat from the recognized practice of not anticipating an order of the day.

[Translation]

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member wish to change the form of his question?

Mr. La Salle: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

I should like to ask the President of the Privy Council whether he could meet with the representatives of the opposition parties so as to decide, upon common agreement, to restrict the debate on Bill C-176?

[English]

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I shall continue my consultations on this and other bills with the opposition.