

Energy

that at least one of these bills can be examined carefully before the debate takes place.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Yesterday, the Minister of Veterans Affairs informed us he was hopeful that consultation regarding the legislation affecting prisoners of war would be completed today. May I ask the government House leader whether this hope has been fulfilled, and whether a bill implementing the recommendations of the seventh report of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs having to do with ex-prisoners of war will be introduced shortly?

● (1540)

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, we had the item on the agenda today, but cabinet did not reach it; nor did we reach a number of other items. It is intended that cabinet will resume again tomorrow morning, at which time I hope a decision will be reached.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): May I just say that the Conservative convention will be completely worthwhile if our not sitting means that the cabinet can meet tomorrow and settle this important issue.

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Two weeks ago I placed a starred question on the order paper. When a member places a starred question on the order paper, it is customary in the House to make an attempt to provide an answer within a week. I have been patiently waiting for two weeks now, and with the House not sitting tomorrow it is possible that I will have to wait three weeks. Not only is this a precedent-setting period of time, but the minister is continually feeding this country with information that he wants the country to hear. I should like answers to questions that I should like the country to hear.

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ENERGY

TABLING OF REPORTS, "RADIOACTIVE WASTE LOCATIONS IN CANADA" AND "PROGRESS REPORT ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE INVESTIGATION IN PORT HOPE"

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 41(2) I am pleased to table two copies, in both official languages, of the following documents: firstly, "Radioactive Waste Locations in Canada, February 19, 1976"; and secondly, "Progress Report on Radioactive Waste Investigation in Port Hope, Ontario, February 19, 1976". Annexed to this report are the Atomic Energy Control Board staff memoranda of July 6 and 16, 1975.

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

[Mr. Sharp.]

Mr. J.-J. Blais (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: 3,682, 3,727, 3,861, 3,896, 3,897, 3,918, 3,920, 3,929, 3,930, 3,937, 3,943, 3,953 and 3,970.

The remaining questions stand.

[Text]

EGGS—NEW BRUNSWICK QUOTAS FOR PRODUCTION AND MARKETING

Question No. 3,682—Mr. Jones:

1. What policies and procedures are established for setting quotas for production and marketing of eggs in New Brunswick?
2. Did a number of large supermarkets in Moncton, New Brunswick, run out of egg supplies on Saturday, November 29, 1975 and, if so, for what reason?
3. What organization is responsible for the setting of quotas for production and marketing of eggs in New Brunswick?
4. Have steps been taken to study and keep egg prices in line and, if so (a) what are they (b) by whom?
5. Are the prices of eggs much lower in the United States than in Canada and, if so, for what reason?
6. What steps are necessary to increase the quotas of eggs produced in New Brunswick, particularly in light of the requirements and demands of consumers?
7. Are any such steps being taken and, if not, on what date will such steps be taken?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): 1. As required by the Farm Products Marketing Agencies Act (Section 24), New Brunswick was given the percentage share of the Canadian market it had on average in the five years preceding the effective date of the marketing plan. In 1975 the overall production quota was reduced by 10 per cent except in those provinces with less than 2 per cent of the Canadian global quota—New Brunswick quota was accordingly not reduced.

2. The pre-Christmas demand for eggs was particularly heavy in 1975 and this unexpected demand created temporary shortages of eggs in some localities. Quick action by the local Egg Boards and the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency (CEMA) was able to replenish supplies from areas of surplus stocks.

3. Original quota established as No. 1 above. The New Brunswick Egg Marketing Board allocated this quota among their producers based on producers' size of operation.

4. Yes, steps have been taken to study and keep egg prices in line. (a) A provincial model of the farm-gate cost of egg production for the medium size producers was established by an independent management consultant firm in Canada. This formula is used in calculating the monthly provincial cost of egg production by the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency. The formula was accepted by the National Farm Products Marketing Council and tabled in the House of Commons by the Minister of Agriculture on July 22, 1975. Public hearings will be held shortly on this formula by the National Farm Products Marketing Council. (b) The Canadian Egg Marketing Agency calculates the average cost of production in accordance with the formula. The National Farm Products Marketing Council conducts an independent examination of these costs. Wherever possible, the cost components are obtained from Statistics Canada, the Canada Livestock Feed Board and/or