

contribute \$7 million in emergency food aid and other humanitarian relief. May I ask the Prime Minister if assurance can be given to the House that the committee which is being set up in Kinshasa to monitor this aid will have a Canadian representative? I ask the question in light of the \$20 million in aid which has been given to Zaire in the past seven years and the reports of corruption and black markets operating in food aid in that country.

[Translation]

Mr. Maurice Dupras (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian delegation has not announced any new aid programs for Zaire, it simply announced the stepping up of the present program.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

EXPANSION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA DAIRY INDUSTRY

Mr. Alex Patterson (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Agriculture. If my information that a meeting of the Canadian Dairy Commission is being held today is correct, could the minister advise the House if he has asked the commission to consider the request of the British Columbia dairy industry that measures be taken to provide, through a higher percentage of the market share quota or some other mechanism, the opportunity for the industry to expand in line with its requirements in the province of British Columbia?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, any change in the market share quota is to be decided by the members of that committee which is made up of members from all the provinces participating in the dairy program in Canada and not just the dairy commission or the Minister of Agriculture. It would be decided by that group.

Mr. Patterson: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the directors of the Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association are taking under consideration the advisability of withdrawing from the national program, would the minister make it a matter of personal concern and bring it to the attention of the committee in order that some remedy might be found for the problem?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the committee is very much aware of the problem, and I am sure the Fraser Valley producers are very much aware of the economic loss they would suffer if they withdrew.

Oral Questions

• (1452)

[Translation]

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

DECENTRALIZATION POLICY

Mr. Gilles Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State.

Is it his department's policy to decentralize its offices concerned with provincial administration, much as it is in the various other federal departments?

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is our policy, and it is currently being implemented.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

Since the Department of the Secretary of State has announced probable decentralization in two Ontario regions, namely Hamilton and Sudbury, can the minister explain why, contrary to what is happening in Ontario, and despite this decentralization policy, there are reports, in Quebec, of closing offices in Rouyn-Noranda, Sherbrooke and Trois-Rivières?

Mr. Roberts: Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure I understood the first part of the hon. member's question. I will take his representations as notice and answer him directly.

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[English]

FINANCE

PUBLICATION OF GNP FIGURES

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance and it is very simple. Could the minister indicate why the g.n.p. figures for the first quarter of this year have been delayed again? It was anticipated they would be released today. Why are they being delayed?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, those figures are produced by Statistics Canada, which is an independent organization that does not come under my responsibility.

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, I put the following question to the minister. Does he believe that his April 10 budget estimate of real growth in the economy of approximately 5 per cent is still on target, or is it anticipated there will be less growth, or more growth?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, when I have a statement to make about that, I will make it. So far, I have not changed my estimate that the growth in the Canadian economy will be close to 5 per cent.