

[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR QUEBEC TO COMPLETE ROAD NETWORK IN GASPÉ AND ÎLES-DE-LA-MADELEINE

Mr. Albert Béchard (Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

As the special federal-provincial agreement for the economic development of the Lower St. Lawrence, Gaspé Peninsula and Îles-de-la-Madeleine area will soon expire, and as the funds made available to Quebec by the federal government for the reconstruction of the road network in that area have long since been exhausted, can the minister tell the House and the people of the area concerned whether the Quebec government has asked for additional funds from the federal government to complete those highways that are essential to the economic development of that important area of the country?

[English]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I am not entirely certain whether there are actual, formal negotiations underway with regard to the portion of the highway to which the hon. member referred. I can tell him that in conversations with representatives of the government of Quebec, the matter of assistance for highway construction in the Gaspé was discussed in general terms. I will undertake to inquire from our officials in the province of Quebec as to whether these matters have now proceeded to the point where actual negotiations are under way.

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AGRICULTURE

DATE OF INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION FOR CATTLE LOSSES RESULTING FROM BRUCELLOSIS AND TUBERCULOSIS

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture, now that he has finished paging through his briefing notes. In respect of reports coming from the meeting of the minister with the various provincial agriculture ministers, it is reported that the minister indicated that legislation will be introduced shortly which would provide for better compensation for farmers who suffer cattle losses from brucellosis. I would like to ask the minister when that legislation will be introduced and whether it will also include cattle losses due to TB.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I think I can say that that is another erroneous press report.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Another?

Mr. Whelan: The hon. member who is being vocal should know because he used to write more than anyone else I know.

Oral Questions

An hon. Member: Super bull strikes again.

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): I was right more often than you are.

Mr. Whelan: Amendments were presented in the House last October to the Animal Contagious Diseases Act, and I said at the meeting to which the hon. member referred that if the provincial ministers of agriculture could persuade the members of the opposition and their leaders and if we could get unanimous consent to bring in the bill, it would be passed in as short a time as possible, and we could pay more compensation to the farmers as well as do all these other things.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Epp: Regardless of the rhetoric the minister wants to use, the farmers in my riding want to have answers about what the minister will do with respect to the cattle losses they are now suffering as a result of TB, and I ask the minister when that will—

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Is he still suffering from foot and mouth disease?

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Joe, put a zipper on it, will you?

Mr. Epp: I wonder if the hon. member for St. Boniface is also suffering from foot and mouth disease and wants compensation.

I ask the minister when that legislation will be brought forward and whether it will be an update—because present compensation is simply not in keeping with replacement costs—and whether that legislation will also include losses incurred as a result of loss of herds.

Mr. Whelan: The legislation covers all diseases under the Animal Contagious Diseases Act, and it covers TB. I heard what the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton said, and I think that the hon. member who asked the question should probably report him and he should be kept in quarantine.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

USE OF NORTHWEST PASSAGE BY UNITED STATES TANKERS—POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO PIPELINE

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and it follows on the series of questions which began the question period relating to the use of the Arctic by United States icebreaker cargo vessels. Since the minister has indicated that he has been kept fully informed of the use of these vessels in the Arctic, can he tell us whether the Americans are planning to use the eastern route following the *Manhattan* route or the western route, and whether the Americans are planning the tanker icebreaker device as a supplement to the pipeline or as an alternative to the pipeline?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, they have not had any