

Oral Questions

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): No, Mr. Speaker, we have not made any decision to establish a veterinary college. I think the hon. member is well aware of the proposal the premier of Prince Edward Island has put forward. As I understand it, he has even gone so far as to advertise for a dean for the school. We have made no decision or commitment at this stage of the game. We are hoping there can be that harmonious relationship that is the desire, I am sure, of even the hon. member and myself, between those great Atlantic premiers and provinces.

Mr. Nowlan: It must be the spirit of Christmas, Mr. Speaker, as I do agree in part with the Minister of Agriculture, which really leads me to my supplementary question. In order to get this off dead centre and remove it from the obvious provincial conflict of interest I go back to a question I asked last week or the week before: will the minister use his good offices, along with the Deputy Prime Minister and, I guess, the present government House leader, to have the Howe Report on the establishment of this college referred to the committee on agriculture in order that the various people interested in the establishment of this college, including Dean Howe, could come before a non-partisan body like that committee on agriculture and have this whole matter ventilated so that something can be done?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, the provinces themselves agreed to this educational commission, I believe it was called, composed of highly learned and skilled people who made an inquiry, talked to the people of the provinces, made surveys, and I understood the provinces were to accept that commission's recommendations. I am sure that if the commission had said Nova Scotia in its recommendation the hon. member would not be asking these questions.

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INDUSTRY**PLASTICS—REQUEST FOR MEASURES TO AID**

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce regarding the plastic industry of Canada which is experiencing difficulties. There are 1,400 manufacturing establishments which have a market of \$2.6 billion, of which only one-third is supplied by imports. The industry covers and affects a huge sector of the market place and represents more than six per cent of the total manufacturing industry. This industry is operating at an estimated disadvantage in respect of raw materials and manpower of approximately 22 per cent. What proposal does the minister have to offset this destructive 22 per cent disadvantage which in the long run will put many of these establishments out of business?

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I am not as pessimistic as the hon. member. For one thing, I think the 90 cent dollar will help the Canadian plastics industry, and the ability of Canada to

[Mr. Nowlan.]

supply raw materials to the Canadian plastics industry should stand it in good stead. We have a number of specific projects which will help specific manufacturers in the industry at any time they want to apply to the department.

Mr. Rynard: Mr. Speaker, would the minister consider a monetary proposal such as a reduced interest rate to offset capital costs?

Mr. Horner: That is an interesting thought, Mr. Speaker, but if we reduce interest rates that will cost the federal treasury some money.

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PUBLIC SERVICE**INDEXING OF PENSIONS—DATE OF PUBLICATION OF STUDIES**

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I would direct my question to the President of the Treasury Board. If he answered this question in the last while I would apologize to him. Can he tell us what progress is being made in the filing and studying of actuarial studies for indexing of public servants superannuation, and, if progress has been made, when does he anticipate being in a position to release both the government study and that study which has been commissioned by independent actuaries?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I anticipate that the report will be in my hands very shortly, perhaps within a matter of days. I have been away for a day or so and it might even be in my office now. I anticipate being able to table it, providing that it may be translated, perhaps before Christmas, but if not it will be upon resumption of the session after the Christmas recess.

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MANPOWER**BILINGUAL POSITIONS—REASON SOME EMPLOYEES DO NOT RECEIVE BONUS**

Mr. Hal Herbert (Vaudreuil): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

An hon. Member: Unemployment.

Mr. Herbert: I would like to ask the minister whether he is aware of a situation in offices in the Montreal region of the Department of Employment and Immigration in which, because of percentage limits on the number of designated positions, there are persons working in both languages who cannot receive the bonus for bilingualism, whereas in the same offices, because the language of work is French, there are unilingual Anglophones who do receive the bonus for bilingualism?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, with respect I would suggest that this