

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the legal argument might be adjourned for the time being or referred to the Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

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[Later:]

AGRICULTURE**SUBSIDY TO BEEF PRODUCERS—SUGGESTED MODIFICATION—SUBSTITUTION OF DIRECT SUPPORT**

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, in view of the minister's reply to a previous question that beef marketing had settled down—this is largely because commission agents and producers are being bludgeoned into accepting a pretty unworkable policy—I should like to ask him whether he will modify his policy at least to the extent of paying the premium on all cattle that fall into the A and B grades so the premium can be paid directly to the producers with the result that they will at least get the benefit of this program?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, this is being considered. There are people from different parts of Canada in the offices of the Department of Agriculture discussing this with officials of my department at the present time to determine how workable and practical this may be. There are other suggestions being made by farm organizations and members of parliament which are also being considered at the present time.

Mr. Gleave: In view of the suggestions the minister has received on the subject, will he consider introducing a policy of putting a direct support feature into this program so the producers will have a support level under this program at this point in time which they really do not have now?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I should have said in my reply to the previous question that I disagree to some extent with what the hon. member said about prices. I checked the prices at Toronto today and found that they are much better than they were yesterday, and they are doing what we wanted them to do.

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): Is that for the U.S. cattle they were buying?

Mr. Whelan: The hon. member for Crowfoot has interjected a question about U.S. cattle. They have dropped in price on the Omaha market, on which the price is based. If we are to have some kind of a system that has nothing to do with the North American market, and that is perhaps what we should have, then I should like to know if that is what the hon. member would support.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Middlesex on a supplementary question, to be followed by the hon. member for Simcoe North.

[Mr. Baldwin.]

● (1450)

SUBSIDY TO BEEF PRODUCERS—DETERMINATION OF GRADE OF CATTLE KILLED IN SMALL ONTARIO PLANTS

Mr. William C. Frank (Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I have a question in respect of another area of concern on which hopefully the Minister of Agriculture can shed some light. In light of the fact there are a great number of fat cattle killed in small killing plants in Ontario where there is only a provincial inspector, and consequently there are no federal grading slips, I should like to know how the grade of the cattle killed will be determined for the retroactive period?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we know approximately—I should say quite accurately—how many cattle are slaughtered in a week in Canada and what the grades are and if we take seven cents a pound for A-1 and A-2 and average that out at say five cents a pound—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would suggest to the hon. minister and the hon. member that this is argument.

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HEALTH**REJECTION OF QUALIFIED CANADIAN APPLICANTS BY MEDICAL SCHOOLS**

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): I should like to direct my question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that large numbers of qualified applicants are being rejected by our medical schools, I should like to know why over the last ten years more doctors from outside Canada have been admitted to practise here than ever before instead of training more doctors in our own schools, and when is this discrimination going to stop?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the hon. member for raising this question. Indeed, this very matter was raised at the last conference of ministers of health in February. As the hon. member knows, the matter of schools of medicine and medical practice in each province is a matter for provincial governments to determine. However, I have opened discussions on this subject with my colleagues and I hope there will be general agreement on a policy by the federal and provincial governments in the next few months after further meetings on the subject. I share the hon. member's concern about providing Canadian students with opportunities in this field.

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INDUSTRY**AUTOMOBILES—CHRYSLER CORPORATION PRICE POLICY**

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my question is in respect of transportation and is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Has he discussed with the Chrysler Corporation of Canada their review of