

does not look quite as good. We are aware of the system that Australia uses for grading wheat.

WHEAT—PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH PROTEIN PREMIUM FOR UTILITY GRADE

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture who is responsible for the Board of Grain commissioners. Would he take up with the Board of Grain commissioners the possibility of using a protein premium for this vast amount of utility wheat which weighs out just as well and is just as good for the consumers as every other type of wheat but is graded down because of the odd kernels which are sprouting? Would they consider the technique of using a premium grade based on the protein content?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, this has been considered but in many parts of the world when you put the protein content first, that is what makes the buyer back off. We have found this because we have stressed the high quality of wheat. The protein content is generally higher than any other wheat in the world. Some of the other grain traders in the world perhaps would rather buy a lower protein wheat and then sell it in the market because they seem to be able to manage their markets in a better way and have better sales when selling a lower grade wheat. At least, that is the argument that has been presented to me.

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FISHERIES

SEALS—EFFORTS TO DEVELOP MARKET FOR PELTS IN EUROPE

Mr. William Rompkey (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries or for his parliamentary secretary. In view of the increase in seal quotas this year, for which the government is to be commended, in spite of the adverse publicity and opposition from groups such as Greenpeace and by Mr. Brian Davies, and in view of the fact that the price of seal pelts in Europe in particular has gone down, can the minister or the parliamentary secretary tell us about the efforts which the department will make through the industrial development branch or other branches of the department to give support to the sale of seal pelts in Europe because of the importance of this issue to fishermen in Atlantic Canada and Quebec?

Mr. Hugh A. Anderson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, first of all let me say that I think it is not only the minister and the government but all hon. members who should try to convince people not only in France but also in Canada and in other parts of the world, that we are dealing with a renewable resource and that the government is protecting the species from becoming extinct. The minister has no control over the actions of the French government, but I assure the hon. member that the minister will do all in his power to support

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the seal hunting industry in Canada and he will also do all in his power to counteract the injustice caused this industry by the tiddly-tinkers from France.

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NORTHERN AFFAIRS

HIGH COST OF FOOD—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON INVESTIGATION

Mr. J. R. Holmes (Lambton-Kent): Mr. Speaker, I have a brief question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. On June 17 I asked the former minister questions regarding the high cost of food in the north and I referred specifically to the deplorable situation of alcohol, which because it is subsidized, costs less than milk. Following that question the former minister, in a letter dated June 17, indicated that his department would consult the Territorial Council, native organizations and other departments of the federal government regarding this serious matter. I would like to ask the minister if these consultations have been completed and if he is now in a position to make recommendations to the House?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): I am not sure that those consultations are completed but I will check into it and report back to the hon. member.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

REPORT ON DIFFICULTIES FACING HANDICAPPED ENTERING SERVICE—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF REPORT AND EARLY ACTION

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Treasury Board concerning difficulties facing handicapped people within the public service and those who are handicapped and trying to enter the Public Service of Canada. The minister has in his department a very extensive report prepared by the Public Service Commission which cries out for no more reports but for some action. When will action be taken on that report?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board): As quickly as possible, Mr. Speaker. I assure the hon. member of my definite and personal interest in this area of which, I think he knows from my involvement in my previous portfolio. I join him and others to encourage our public service to act on this.