

Oral Questions

greater sheep production in Canada. We are considering that brief and we will be in further consultation with them later.

IMPORTS OF BEEF INTO CANADA IN JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH, 1974

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture says he has all kinds of statistics in front of him. This question was asked yesterday by me and answered by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. It had to do with imports of beef into Canada since last July 1. I ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce whether this answer was true, that the department has no information on imports of beef for January, February and March of this year, or was it a cover-up?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I was not in the House when the hon. member asked that question.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is a frivolous way of answering the question—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker: —or not answering. I am not to be brushed off with that kind of stuff.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We will attempt to settle this difficulty with supplementaries from the right hon. member, and questions from—

[*Translation*]

—the hon. member for Lotbinière, the hon. member for Richmond; afterwards I will call orders of the day. The hon. member for Prince Albert has the floor.

[*English*]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, surely the minister does not assert that his department is four months behind in statistics respecting imports of beef from the United States and other places. If he does, it is about time that he transferred some of these other officials from other departments in order to have a sufficient number of them to give information to the House. It is a cover-up.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: I apologize to the hon. member for Lotbinière, but the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham rises on a point of order.

[*English*]

Mr. Lawrence: Mr. Speaker, my point of order is simply this. The Minister of Agriculture has offered to show this book of speech material which he has at hand to any member who requests it. I am now formally asking him to send the book over so that we can see it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the hon. member must have some doubts as to some procedural aspects of the request he is making now. I hope the minister will not

[*Mr. Whelan.*]

attempt to walk across the floor to give the book to the hon. member who is asking for it.

[*Translation*]

The hon. member for Lotbinière wants to ask a supplementary. I will recognize him and then call orders of the day.

REFUSAL OF BEEF SUBSIDY ON ANIMALS FROM DAIRY HERDS

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

In view of the fact that, on the one hand, 622 million pounds of beef have been imported and that, on the other hand, tens of beef producers in Lotbinière constituency have seen their applications for beef production subsidies turned down on a mere legal technicality, this meat coming from dairy herds, can the minister advise the House whether or not he will review this decision and correct this anomaly, so that all Quebecers and other Canadians may be treated as well as foreigners when the time comes to supply the needs of Canadians?

Mr. Speaker: I am under the impression that this question has already been asked. However, the hon. minister may care to answer it for a second or a third time.

[*English*]

[*Later:*]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, total Canadian exports and imports of beef—I could go on and give all kinds of figures, but I just want to say this—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hees: Just send the book over, Gene.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The answer was false.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think this would be a good time to call orders of the day.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS AND AIR CANADA

PROVISION FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURES AND GUARANTEEING OF SECURITIES AND DEBENTURES

The House resumed, from Monday, April 1, consideration of Bill C-5, to authorize the provision of moneys to meet certain capital expenditures of the Canadian National Railways system and Air Canada for the period from the 1st day of January, 1973 to the 30th day of June, 1974, and to authorize the guarantee by Her Majesty of certain