

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. These are representations. The hon. member for Edmonton Centre has a supplementary question.

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration in charge of the local initiatives program. In view of the minister's direct contribution toward a research program to establish the rate of incidence of child battery in Canada and in view of the fact that the program will investigate the socio-economic situation of the families in which child beating occurs, may I congratulate the minister on awarding a LIP grant to a very fine woman—

• (1450)

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member cannot congratulate the minister. He can ask him a question.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Withdraw!

Mr. Paproski: I withdraw the congratulations. But may I say that the minister awarded this grant to a very fine woman who was shafted out of the Liberal nomination in Edmonton Centre in the last federal election.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Paproski: My question, Sir—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Paproski: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member rises on a question of privilege.

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, I still think you're a great guy!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Andras: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I should think that if the hon. member is not permitted to congratulate me he should not be permitted to congratulate anybody else in the House.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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AGRICULTURE

ALLEGED STATEMENTS BY MINISTER ON FOOD PRICES— GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Would the right hon. gentleman inform the Houses whether his Minister of Agriculture was expressing the policy and views of the government when he stated on February

[Mr. Rondeau.]

3 in London, Ontario, that "I am pleased that food prices have finally started to turn the corner and are rising", and again in Ottawa yesterday, I believe, when he used words to the effect that he welcomes a rise in food prices because this will mean a rise in farm incomes?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this is obviously not a matter of policy. The minister was expressing pleasure, and I think it is normal for a Minister of Agriculture to tell farmers that he is happy they are getting more revenue.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lawrence: Mr. Speaker, in view of the endorsement of those words by the Prime Minister, may I then ask him whether it is now the policy of the government to leave the impression that the blame for high food prices should be laid at the door of the farmers?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, at no time did I say that the farmers were causing the high increase in the cost of food to consumers. I said that the farmers were now getting a fair return for the input for which they are responsible, and anybody who says differently is not stating the facts as I stated them.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lawrence: You can suck and whistle at the same time.

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INCOME TAX

ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN EXPLAINING FORM FOR 1972— SUGGESTED EXTENSION TO WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, would the Minister of National Revenue advise the House why it was, in the current campaign on the part of his department to explain the unexplainable, that is, the difficulties in the income tax form, that while various media were chosen the weekly newspapers were not, a group that make a tremendous contribution not only to their localities but to Canada as a whole?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I noticed the same lack myself, and I have asked my officials to see whether it might be possible to find the money to extend this excellent campaign as the right hon. member suggests. As one who comes from an area where people rely very much on weekly newspapers for their information, I welcome his support of my efforts to extend this campaign into the weekly newspapers.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Now that we have received convincing evidence that the government is starting to think about the subject, will the minister press forward to assure that many thousands of Canadians, who otherwise will not be