

change in the criminal code. He is simply asking officers within his jurisdiction to enforce the law, and that would seem to be a good idea.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): I am very pleased at the answer of the Minister of Justice. In view of the fact that his own feelings are identified with those of the attorney general of Ontario, would he take the time and trouble to clarify this matter with the other provincial ministers who are responsible in this area in order that definite action be taken with respect to what has grown to be a very difficult and bad example for young people all across this country?

Mr. Basford: In respect of the proper jurisdiction of provincial attorneys general, all that would be appropriate for me to do would be to draw the attention of the provincial attorneys to the remarks of Mr. McMurtry.

* * *

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

MEASURES TO MAINTAIN PRICE OF BEEF—CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Agriculture.

Considering that last year the federal government, in agreement with the provinces, helped the beef producers because the price of beef was too low and that this year the price of calves is still lower than last year, could the minister advise us whether he proposes to meet his provincial counterparts to discuss this matter, in order to restore reasonable prices or to give a reasonable subsidy to the producers so that they can continue their production this year?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the program that I announced the other day is similar to the one we had last year. That one, instead of finishing next August, is finishing this year, December 31, and a new program will be drafted beginning January 1, for the fiscal year. I understand that a consultative committee made up of deputy provincial ministers will be meeting in Ottawa to discuss this and other stabilization programs for agriculture.

[Translation]

Mr. Beaudoin: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Would the minister tell the House whether this new program the federal government will establish with the provinces will be a long term program aimed at compensating the producers for the chaos they were in in recent years as far as beef production is concerned?

[English]

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, the general principle of proper stabilization is to take the bust and boom out of agriculture.

Oral Questions

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—SUGGESTED APPLICATION OF WAGE GUIDELINES TO DIVIDENDS

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Finance. Is the government reconsidering its guidelines relating to dividends and specifically is it now on the point of agreeing to the suggestion I made in the House on October 16 to the effect that the freeze on dividends be lifted and that dividends and wages be subjected to the same sort of guidelines, that is 10 per cent and \$2,400?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I can say to the hon. member that we have been considering a number of changes in the guidelines and that the representations with respect to dividends, among others, are under consideration. I hope to be able to make an announcement, probably in the course of committee hearings on the bill next week.

* * *

FINANCE

ARRANGEMENTS FOR DELIVERY OF SAVINGS BOND DIVIDEND CHEQUES IN VIEW OF POSTAL STRIKE

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): While I am on my feet I should like to respond to a question put yesterday by the other hon. member from southern Vancouver Island about Canada savings bonds. We do indeed have under negotiation with the chartered banks an alternate system for getting the November 1 interest payments on Canada savings bonds into the hands of the recipients, we hope, by the end of this week or early next week.

* * *

POST OFFICE

GOVERNMENT POSITION ON DURATION OF STRIKE AND POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING BACK TO WORK LEGISLATION

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Postmaster General I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister about progress in the negotiations on the postal strike. Since the statements by the Postmaster General indicate that the major issues have not yet been dealt with, can the Acting Prime Minister give the House an estimate of how long negotiations will continue, and would the government reconsider its refusal to restore postal service while negotiations are going on?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the negotiations are proceeding. They broke off today about noon and will be resumed at four o'clock. Progress is being made. I think that a statement such as the hon. gentleman asks me to make at this time would do nothing to advance the negotiations.