

Department of Agriculture figures, the wholesale price of beef in Toronto declined by 17 per cent in the past ten weeks while weighted average retail costs on a survey of five Toronto supermarkets only declined by 6.8 per cent. Does the government continue to support the assurances of the Food Prices Review Board that food prices are not rocketing out of control and that excessive profits are not being taken by processors?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the facts speak for themselves.

Mr. Jelinek: Can the minister advise the House if it is the government's policy to encourage a slower decline of retail prices than wholesale prices?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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FINANCE

BASIS OF MINISTER'S FISCAL POLICY AND ECONOMIC PROGRAMS

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. On October 9 the Governor of the Bank of Canada indicated that monetary policy is now based on the assumption that economic growth is largely responsible for inflation and we must live with a high level of unemployment. Is the minister now basing his fiscal policy and economic programs on the same assumption?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I do not believe the premise of the hon. member's question properly reflects a correct reading of the governor's speech.

Mr. Grafftey: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Sharp: Quote the speech.

Mr. Grafftey: I am quoting verbatim the speech made in Quebec. I was perhaps out of order last week, but not this week.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for York East.

[Later:]

Mr. Grafftey: I simply wish to ask the Minister of Finance if his fiscal policies and economic programs are based on the assumption that economic expansion is largely responsible for inflation?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Grafftey: Will the minister then inform the House—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi has a further supplementary which he might be allowed to ask.

Oral Questions

Mr. Grafftey: In view of the minister's answer, will he inform the House how he proposes to reconcile his views with the expressed point of view of the governor of the Bank of Canada?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is inviting the minister to make a statement which should properly be made on motions.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

DATE OF PROCEEDING WITH BILL C-125

Mr. Ian Arrol (York East): Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the House the President of the Privy Council was asked when Bill C-125, designed to tighten up the regulations relating to unemployment insurance, might be brought forward for debate. He replied:

Consideration will be given to bringing it forward at an appropriate time.

In view of the present desperate difficulty being experienced by many industries, particularly in Toronto, in getting permanent help, will the President of the Privy Council take appropriate action and bring the bill before the House this week or next week, certainly this session?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I will consider the hon. member's representation in drawing up the legislative program for the next couple of weeks.

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● (1430)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ARAB-ISRAELI WAR—CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS—REQUEST FOR INFORMATION—CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN POSSIBLE PEACEKEEPING FORCE

Mr. Ron Atkey (St. Paul's): Mr. Speaker, my question concerns reported violations last night and today of the United Nations cease-fire in the Middle East by Egypt and Syria. Has the Secretary of State for External Affairs any further information to report to the House and the country with respect of these violations and the attitude of the Canadian government with respect to participation in a United Nations peacekeeping force in the apparent absence of any acceptance of the cease-fire by a number of states taking part in the conflict?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): We are still hopeful that the initiative taken by the two superpowers and the action of the Security Council calling for a cease-fire will be effective. Yesterday I indicated clearly that if we could be helpful in getting a cease-fire established we would be ready to serve, or if we could be useful at a later stage in connection with the negotiations we would be very ready to serve there, too.