

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, first of all the Medical Research Council has been awarded much more money than last year. But then, funds allotted to medical research will always be inadequate. Third, I do not agree with the hon. member that many research projects will be stopped. This is not the information I have on that matter.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

ACTION TO ENSURE THAT BEEF, HOG AND MILK PRODUCERS CONTINUE OPERATIONS

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Agriculture is perhaps in a similar vein to the one put by the hon. member for Sarnia-Lambton. In view of the fact that 90 per cent of the increase of \$1.4 billion in farm income from 1972 to 1973 was received by the wheat and grain producers of Canada and approximately only 7 per cent was received by the beef, hog and milk producers, what immediate, concrete proposals and incentives does the government intend to undertake to ensure that these producers remain in these types of farming and do not take off, if the minister will pardon a pun, for greener fields?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we outlined some of the proposals in the throne speech and we hope to be initiating some of them with the farmers and my provincial counterparts as soon as we can. How soon that will be I am not prepared to say at this time. I realize, as does the hon. member, it is most important that some incentive and guarantee be provided to keep these people in production. I am not 100 per cent sure of his figures but I do know these people must have a decent return or they are not going to stay in business.

REQUEST FOR DEFICIENCY PAYMENT FOR BEEF PRODUCERS RATHER THAN HIGH TARIFFS

Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture follows the same vein. In view of the fact the western cattle industry would be in a very detrimental position if the government introduced a program of high tariffs related to the movement of beef into the American market or vice versa, can the minister assure the House that in trying to resolve this question the government will stand by the principle of free trade and in fact bring in some program of temporary deficiency payments?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. member's colleague asked the same question last week. I said we were considering many different proposals and that is one we are considering. I am also prepared to visit my counterpart in the United States and discuss the quota problem, the tariff position and also the DES problem.

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster and then call orders of the day.

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HARBOURS

PORT OF SAINT JOHN—FIRE ON WHARVES—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO REPLACE LOSSES

Mr. Tom Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Minister of Transport. In view of the disastrous \$3 million fire on the wharves at the port of Saint John over the weekend, would the acting minister give an assurance that there will be a full survey of the losses and as soon as possible a statement of the government's intentions to replace the losses?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Acting Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think the answer would be yes to both questions. Obviously all of us regret the fire. I was advised this morning that the survey to which the hon. member referred has begun. As soon as there is anything to report both as to the problem and the interim solution, I will be glad to pass it on, or the Minister of Transport will.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for the Yukon rises on a point of order.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, since the President of the Privy Council has resisted the blandishment of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development with respect to the introduction of the bill to amend the British North America Acts, 1867 to 1965, standing in his name on today's order paper, I wonder if he would consider by unanimous consent reverting to the introduction of bills for the purpose of introducing the bill standing in my name on page 10 of the order paper which deals with the same subject matter and probably in precisely the same terms.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I will be giving first reading to the bill that was stood today very shortly, so that my hon. friends will have a chance to support it.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day. The hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council rises on a point of order.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

TIME LIMIT ON SPEECHES ON LAST DAY OF THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, this is the last day of the throne speech debate and there are a large number of members who want to contribute to the debate. There have been discussions among the parties and perhaps it might be agreed that we limit the first speech by the representative of each party to 20 minutes and all the rest of the speeches to be made