

AGRICULTURE

INTERPROVINCIAL MARKETING—GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE RESPECTING RESTRICTIVE MEASURES

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture.

Since some provinces are taking new steps to end the free trade of farm products between provinces, what approach does the federal government intend to take with regard to these restrictive measures that may prevent needed competition and balkanize trade between Canadian provinces?

[English]

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): If I heard the question correctly, I should like to advise the hon. member that I do not intend to take any measures which would balkanize trade between provinces. All the Ministers of Agriculture have indicated to me, even very recently, that they are prepared to negotiate a plan in accordance with which all the marketing regulations would be applied uniformly across the country. As soon as Bill C-176 is passed and we have authority to do this, we believe we can alleviate this problem.

Mr. Baldwin: That is not what Thatcher says.

[Translation]

Mr. Beaudoin: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Agriculture.

What immediate steps does he intend to take to remove the embargo that certain provinces have put on a given farm product coming from other provinces?

[English]

Mr. Olson: What we intend to do is to move, as rapidly as the provinces and this House will allow us, to put into effect plans which will in fact remove this problem which is causing some difficulty in connection with provincial borders.

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THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

INQUIRY AS TO CHANGE IN STATUS

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): I would ask the Prime Minister whether or not there have been any discussions between various members of the Commonwealth, or whether any tentative arrangements were made at the recent Prime Ministers Conference, whereby Governors General shall hereafter be regarded as heads of state?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): There was no such general discussion at the Singapore Conference or at the London Conference which I attended. Beyond that, I imagine each government is giving thought to the problem in the way it best can.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Does that answer indicate that the Governor General, who is now visiting countries in continental Europe, has been given a direction by this government that he is the head of state of this nation?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Trudeau: The Governor General is in Europe on an official visit, obviously with the authority and consent of this government. It might be important to add, however, that the advice of the Queen was sought and that she did give her consent to this trip also.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That still does not answer the question. As for Her Majesty, the Queen, being consulted, she naturally takes the advice of her Prime Minister, so the Prime Minister does not get away from the question by that evasive answer. I ask the Prime Minister: Is the Governor General travelling, with the knowledge of the government of Canada, as head of state? If so, is this another step in the erosion of our monarchical system by the present government?

Mr. Trudeau: It could hardly be that because the head of state, under the constitution, is the Queen—

Mr. Diefenbaker: Yes.

Mr. Trudeau: —as the right hon. gentleman knows.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I enjoy the Prime Minister's evasive answers, but I want an answer to this question, and Canadians have a right to know. Is the Governor General properly representing himself to be the head of state rather than Her Majesty the Queen who now has received the official imprimatur of the Prime Minister?

Mr. Trudeau: I think the answer can be put quite simply by saying that the Governor General of Canada is travelling abroad in his function and capacity as, and under the title of, the Governor General of Canada.

Mr. Diefenbaker: And not as head of state; it is the old game.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

KEEPING OF DOSSIERS ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. C. Terrence Murphy (Sault Ste. Marie): My question is directed to the Solicitor General. I should like to know whether Premier Campbell of Prince Edward Island was correct when he stated that RCMP dossiers are kept on all cabinet ministers in Canada. If so, are similar dossiers kept on other elected Members of Parliament and, in that case, on which members?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question is in order to some extent, though not in the form in which it has been asked. The hon. member is inviting the minister to express his view on whether or not the premier of a province was correct in something he has said, and in those terms the question cannot be accepted.

Mr. Murphy: May I rephrase the question and ask whether or not it is the policy of the RCMP to keep dossiers on cabinet ministers or on any other elected members of Parliament?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I feel the RCMP should treat all Canadians the same