

Oral Questions

In examining the record of my immediate predecessor, may I say that not one constructive act was undertaken by the previous government to do anything about this discriminatory feature.

● (1500)

Mr. Clark: Ask native women.

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GRAIN

REVIEW OF FEED GRAINS POLICY

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture, and it relates to feed grains policy. In light of the recent announcement of a partial move away from the corn competitive pricing formula and the introduction of subsidy programs to keep stocks available in central and Atlantic Canada through the Canadian Wheat Board, proving that the open market is unable to supply adequate feed supplies, could the minister tell the House if and when he will be conducting a full review of the feed grains policy? When will he be submitting the entire question of the open marketing of feed grains to a plebiscite of producers, as promised when the program was first introduced in the mid-1970s?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, I disagree with some of the things the hon. member has said. First, there has never been a shortage of feed grain on the feed market for those people who use western feed grain, whether it be in British Columbia or in eastern Canada. The hon. member knows full well that central Canada is more than self-sufficient, and that in part of Ontario and part of western Quebec there is a surplus in grain production. Ontario produces surplus production of about 400,000 tonnes at the present time. This does not mean that they may not use some western grain at different times, but this policy is one which will take out the inequity of grain supplied at the Chicago competitive price by the Canadian Wheat Board. There is still a lot of grain being supplied—and he knows it—by the off-board grain sales, by that operation. We said in the press release we made last week that we would continue to review the feed grains policy. We want to be fair and equitable to all concerned.

FARM STORAGE PROGRAM

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre): Madam Speaker, I note that the minister did not discuss the question of a plebiscite, which was part of the original proposal. However, in addition to that question, I should like to ask the minister what work, if any, has taken place to pursue the proposals for a farm storage program, following the suggestions of the advisory committees to the Canadian Livestock Feed Board and to the Canadian Wheat Board.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, at the present time, concerning farm storage proposals, I do not believe any further action has been taken. As the hon. member knows, the program has worked fairly well in those areas where there has been a shortage of feed grain.

Concerning the plebiscite, the hon. member also knows that it was not a firm part of the agreement. It was a suggested part of the agreement by some people, but the agreement indicated that we would review it. Naturally, we are reviewing the possibility, but not in the great detail of a plebiscite at this time. He knows that full well also.

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PETITION

MR. COOK—RECONSIDERATION OF BUDGET AND HIGH INTEREST RATE POLICY

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has laid upon the Table the one hundred and eighty-fifth report of the Clerk of Petitions stating that he has examined the petition presented by the hon. member for North Vancouver-Burnaby (Mr. Cook) on Friday, March 19, 1982, and finds that the petition meets the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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STANDING ORDERS

REVISION RESPECTING DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN LEGISLATION

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, we have concluded the negotiations commenced immediately after the vote on the motion of the official opposition to adjourn last Wednesday. I am pleased to report that we have reached a major agreement. May I now seek unanimous consent to move the appropriate motion?

Madam Speaker: Does the House give unanimous consent to the hon. minister to move the motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) and by the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans):

That the Standing Orders be amended by adding, immediately following Standing Order 75, the following:

75.1(a) The purpose of this Standing Order is to provide for the orderly and timely consideration of the following proposed bills, to be introduced no later than April 8, 1982 and to be finally disposed of no later than June 30, 1982:

1. An act respecting petroleum incentives and Canadian ownership and control determination and to amend the Foreign Investment Review Act;
2. An act to amend the Petro-Canada Act;
3. An act to amend the Canada Business Corporations Act;