

Oral Questions
AGRICULTURE

ADEQUACY OF SUPPLY-MANAGEMENT PROGRAM OF
CANADIAN EGG MARKETING AGENCY—REQUEST FOR
TABLING OF AGREEMENTS WITH PROVINCES

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, on May 20, in reply to a question by the hon. member for St. John's East regarding import controls on U.S. eggs, the Minister of Agriculture said that no action will be taken until "it can be shown that the egg producers of Canada have their supply-management program in proper order". The minister went on to say that the producers claim this has already been accomplished, but he was checking out these facts. I should like to ask whether the minister has checked out the facts and is he now satisfied that the program in fact is in order?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am to get a report later this day so I am not at all in a position to indicate whether I feel the supply-management program is or is not in order.

Mr. Jarvis: Mr. Speaker, could the minister tell us when he anticipates he will be able to table the agreement, and would he also agree to table at the same time the amendments or riders the various provinces attach to that agreement?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I understand that these are public documents once they are signed, so I feel there should be no difficulty in tabling them, following the usual procedure of getting permission from the co-signers.

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ENERGY

OIL AND NATURAL GAS—DATE OF MEETING WITH PROVINCES
TO DEAL WITH PRICES

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance. Is the minister able to report to the House that there has been any progress in arranging for the date of a further meeting of the first ministers of the provinces and the Prime Minister to deal with the prices of petroleum and natural gas? If so, what is that date and will this precede the budget mooted for June 23?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, there have been some informal conversations but no date has as yet been fixed.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, will the Acting Prime Minister assure the House that such a meeting is to be held?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I think it would probably be desirable to have a meeting, but this is a decision which has to be made by all the prime ministers, including the Prime Minister of Canada; therefore, I cannot answer.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): It won't be before June 11?

[Mr. Basford.]

IMMIGRATION

REASON FOR FAILURE TO CHECK BACKGROUND OF GENERAL
QUANG BEFORE GRANTING PERMIT AS REFUGEE FROM VIET
NAM

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that Mr. Quang was brought to Canada, not from Viet Nam, but from the relative safety of the United States, and in view of the fact that according to the minister's own officials it is normal practice to check out a potential refugee's background when time permits or when the potential refugee's life is not at all jeopardized by such a gathering of information, would the Minister of Manpower and Immigration explain to this House and to the people of Canada why in this particular case there was such a hurry to grant Mr. Quang a minister's permit?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Yes, Mr. Speaker. A minister's permit is a very temporary measure allowing him to reside in Canada for a limited period of time, and it is revocable. An investigation is going on now, and there is no inhibition in respect of that investigation by virtue of it being done when he is here as opposed to when he was there. Any decision to formalize his authority or otherwise to stay in Canada will be based on the results of that investigation when we have them.

Mr. Blackburn: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that Mr. Quang is allegedly an important figure in the heroin trade which, if true, would make Quang ineligible for landed immigrant status in Canada, and in view of the fact that there was no need for any hurry in the granting of a minister's permit as well as in view of the serious nature of the charges against Mr. Quang, was there any pressure brought to bear on the minister's department by any foreign government or any agency of a foreign government, either formally or informally, to waive the normal procedure and accept Mr. Quang immediately?

Mr. Andras: Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, and I have carried out some preliminary inquiries on that very matter. It has been confirmed to me at this stage that there was no such contact or suggestion by any foreign government or representative thereof. The fact is that Mr. Quang's children and wife, or children rather, were in Canada, and that was one of the considerations in granting the minister's permit, pending investigation.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY

TEXTILES—REQUEST FOR NEW POLICY TO PROTECT
EMPLOYMENT

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Quite recently, the Prime Minister of Canada announced that his government intended to bring in a new comprehensive policy for the textile and clothing industry in Canada. Is the minister's department now in the process of formulating this policy and can the minister advise the