

*Oral Questions***AGRICULTURE****SUPPORT FOR BEEF PRODUCERS—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the continued uncertainty as to prices and returns to beef producers and the bad effect this may have on consumers and housewives in Canada, can the minister tell the House whether he has arrived at any decision or conclusion on whether he will give support to the beef producers of Canada and the form it will take? Can he tell us how soon he will make a statement.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I attended a meeting with representatives of the beef producers of Canada and representatives of the total industry this morning. The meetings are continuing at the present time and I hope to be able to announce something later this day.

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INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. Since the beginning of this parliament has he had consultations with the Leader of the NDP, the hon. member for York South, relating to the establishment of a coalition Liberal-Socialist government? My question is based on the statement made by the premier of the province of Manitoba this week.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): The answer is a straightforward no. I have not seen that statement.

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AGRICULTURE**FERTILIZER—POSSIBLE SHORTAGE OF DI-CALCIUM PHOSPHATE—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. William C. Frank (Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Minister of Agriculture. In light of the fact that fertilizer ingredient suppliers can find a more financially lucrative market in the United States for the product Di-calcium phosphate and our own fertilizer industry will also be pressuring and demanding its supply, can the minister assure the fertilizer manufacturers that their important industry will not necessarily suffer from the anticipated shortage that now appears to be shaping up, which if allowed to materialize will have an immediate impact on the cost of food?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we are investigating this bit of information to find out just what we can do and where we can find the product to make sure that it is made available to the producers. I cannot say any more at this time because we are still in the throes of the investigation. We only received this information last week.

[Mr. Speaker.]

COMBINES**REASON FOR FAILURE TO CHARGE DIRECTORS OF CEMENT COMPANIES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice regarding the pleas of guilty by seven cement companies in British Columbia. In view of the fact the fines were the largest ever levied under the Combines Investigation Act can the minister advise why none of the directors of the seven companies were charged?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, in each case when a combines matter is looked at the question of the charging of the companies or the directors has to be considered very carefully. I will be glad to refresh my memory as to the exact analysis in this particular case and comment further to the hon. member.

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AGRICULTURE**ALLEGED ANNOUNCEMENT OF LIVESTOCK INSURANCE PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION**

Mr. Ken Hurlburt (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact the minister has just returned from my riding where the papers carried the headline, "The Undaunted Minister of Agriculture"—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hurlburt: —and in view of the fact Webster's Dictionary interprets "undaunted" as "fearless, undismayed and bold"—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: Right on.

Mr. Hurlburt: —I would ask the Minister of Agriculture if he would now be bold enough to inform the House about his announcement in Lethbridge of a new national livestock insurance program whereby the consumers will pay part of the risk taken by the cattlemen?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, whether or not the hon. member knows it, we pay 50 per cent of the crop insurance premiums and that includes everybody in Canada and everybody is a consumer.

Mr. Hurlburt: I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture about his new policy because I was not referring to crop insurance. I was referring to the losses taken by cattlemen in our area.

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, earlier in the program today I said I would be making—

An hon. Member: What program?

An hon. Member: Early show.