Oral Questions

is about to start, is the minister prepared to go to the United States to discuss the on-again off-again quota on imports and embargoes between Canada and the United States so the market might know what is going to happen between these two countries? This is very important to the fall run of cattle.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, a meeting is taking place in Washington today with beef producers from all countries concerned, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, the United States and others. We have representatives at that meeting. As far as our quota program is concerned, it is set for a year. We do not know what the United States is going to do. If the hon. member has any further information on what they are going to do, I would be pleased to receive it.

• (1140)

Mr. Horner: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The minister posed a question to me, but he is Minister of Agriculture. Does he not think that he can do some good for the Canadian cattle industry by going down to the United States and talking with Secretary Butz of the United States so as to ascertain exactly what is the intention of the United States government regarding the export of Canadian cattle to that country?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member well knows, the United States government passed a law—I forget the number of the bill passed—back in 1962 by the U.S.A. which allowed them to hold hearings concerning the controlling of imports of any country that introduced controls that are liable to hurt American exports. The United States government has not said what it is going to do. I thought the hon. member had some knowledge that he was going to pass on to me.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Whelan: I point out, Mr. Speaker, that a week ago today I met with the United States undersecretary of agriculture in Boise, Idaho.

* * *

[Translation]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH QUEBEC BEFORE PASSAGE OF BILL 22

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister.

In view of the fact that Quebec Premier Bourassa has emphasized, ever since he has been elected as head of the Quebec government in 1970, the profitability of cooperative and consultative federalism, can the right hon. Prime Minister tell the House whether the government of Quebec has consulted or at least informed him before putting into effect the language policy contained in Bill 22?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I already had the opportunity to tell the House Mr. Bourassa has discussed his projects with me in a rather general way, and I think some information has also [Mr. Horner.] been given at the ministerial level. Besides that, Mr. Speaker, I can only remind the hon. member that the government of Quebec retains its autonomy in fields of its jurisdiction. There has been some discussion but no comprehensive efforts to take action directly in a provincial jurisdiction area.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, there has been political discussion rather than—I can see the right hon. member for Prince Albert is mumbling. He should feel free to speak up.

[English]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister says that Bill 22 is a matter of provincial jurisdiction. I thought that during the election campaign he expressed grave doubts as to its constitutionality when he was trying to get votes from other parts of Canada.

Mr. Trudeau: As usual, Mr. Speaker, with this type of subject, the right hon. gentleman is wrong.

FINANCE

CONSULTATIONS WITH PROVINCES ON TAXATION OF RESOURCE INDUSTRIES PRIOR TO BUDGET PRESENTATION— GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Will the minister be making, or has he made, concrete proposals to the provinces in the present round of consultations regarding the taxation of resource industries before presenting his next budget?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have been visiting the provinces, and will be again this week or early next week, to discuss with them the implications of proposals that I brought before the House on May 6. I will be reviewing options and hearing what options they have in mind. I want to say to the hon. member that these are not negotiations; these are discussions to put me and the government in a better position to review the budgetary posture before the budget is brought down later in this parliament.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

* * *

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER FOR GRAIN HANDLERS DISPUTE

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Has the minister appointed a commissioner for the grain handlers dispute?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. member for giving me notice of the question. The fact of the matter is that Mr. Justice Bayda of the Queen's Bench court of Saskatchewan has been appointed industrial commissioner in this particular dispute.