

Mr. Basford: I did not take the question as asking for a legal opinion, Mr. Speaker. All I can say is that we are examining all of the oil companies' advertising—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ALLEGED CENSORSHIP OF CONTENTS OF UNIVERSITY STUDENT NEWSPAPERS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): I should like to ask the Minister of Justice whether RCMP officers were acting on the instructions of the government when they warned university student newspaper editors that action would be taken against them if they distributed newspapers the contents of which had been questioned by the police?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): That question is phrased in terms too vague for me to answer. In any event, I will refer it by way of notice to the attention of the Solicitor General.

Mr. Orlikow: Will the Minister of Justice undertake an investigation and report back to the House regarding the censoring of student newspapers across Canada, especially of editorials arguing against the implementation of the War Measures Act?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I will look into the matter, Mr. Speaker, but there is nothing in the regulations to which reference was made earlier today that in any way implies censorship of news coverage or public comment.

Mr. Orlikow: That being the case, would the minister look into the question of whether in fact the police have been misusing the regulations in the way suggested?

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AGRICULTURE

CATTLE—CHANGES IN BEEF GRADING SYSTEM—CONTINUED USE OF OPEN AUCTION BIDDING

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the serious concern of many cattle producers over pending changes in the beef grading system in Canada, which appear to indicate a much greater proportion of rail grading as a basis of settlement to the producer, what thought or consideration is being given to western beef producers who rely heavily on the facilities of the open auction markets where their cattle are exposed to the bidding of several buyers, which seems to be a very satisfactory competitive bidding arrangement?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that the minister reply to this question briefly. It seems to me to be one of a very general nature which would normally call for a

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statement on motions. If the minister can reply quickly and briefly, it will be acceptable in those terms.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I will comply with your suggestion. I do not believe there will be any interference with or any basic change in the auction method of selling most cattle, but there is a plan that is being worked out by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association and others, with some co-operation from my department, to change some of the bases on which beef is graded. As far as I can tell there is no agreement on the question at the present time, and I think that more work will have to be done before a new grading standard becomes operational.

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PUBLIC WORKS

CHURCHILL—CONCLUSION OF REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Public Works. Can the minister say whether an agreement between the federal government and the government of Manitoba has been finalized with respect to a redevelopment plan for the town of Churchill?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I might tell the hon. member that we advanced this proposal to the government of the province of Manitoba several months ago. Although no agreement has yet been concluded, we are hopeful.

Mr. Simpson: Can the minister say whether the matter of a \$10 million redevelopment plan for Churchill has as yet been placed before cabinet?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would not think that that question is in order.

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COMBINES

FARM MACHINERY PRICES—INVESTIGATION OF LACK OF DECREASE FOLLOWING FREEING OF CANADIAN DOLLAR

Mr. A. B. Douglas (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. The minister may recall that I contacted him some time ago in regard to this matter. In view of the continued increase in the price of farm machinery and repairs, much of which machinery is imported and should have been reduced in price following the freeing of the Canadian dollar, is this inequitable situation being investigated by his department and, if so, will the minister make a statement soon in this regard?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have accepted the recommendation of the Barber report that, apart from what my colleague the Minister of Agriculture would do relative to farm machinery prices, the Combines Investigation