

Oral Questions

[Translation]

THE MINISTRY

NATURE OF POSSIBLE CHANGES

Mr. Heward Graffey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask today about the question I asked the right hon. Prime Minister a few days ago concerning the appointment of ministers.

Did he tell a journalist outside the House that he considered seriously appointing New Democratic Party members as ministers to form a popular liberal socialist coalition government?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I told a journalist that the answer I had given in the House should be considered seriously. I remind the hon. member that if he reads *Hansard*, he will see that I have also offered the Progressive Conservative member for Brome-Missisquoi and other members of the same party who have a liberal mind to join us, thus we could form one party—

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[English]

GRAIN

FEED GRAIN—POLICY RESPECTING MARKETING

Mr. Elias Nesdoly (Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. In view of the government's intention to throw domestic western farm feed grains totally on the open market, does the government intend to modify its policy in view of the expressed request of the majority of farm organizations that the Canadian Wheat Board remain the sole marketing agency for western feed grains and that there be a guaranteed initial price for all feed grains?

● (1450)

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the opening statement of the hon. member is not quite accurate and I do not want to seem to be endorsing it. The fact is that a good number of organizations have expressed themselves on both sides of the feed grains question, which is specifically the reason for the period of discussion we initiated with our announcement on August 3. It was significant that the Canadian Federation of Agriculture expressly avoided arriving at a conclusion on the issue because of the known division among farm organizations on the subject. It is our continued objective to ensure that there be equitable pricing and movement of feed grains across the country on a one market basis. We are working toward that program but of course we are taking into consideration all suggestions with regard to specific details of the program so that, as usual, we can introduce a program that best serves the interests of all Canadians.

Mr. Nesdoly: Since the government of Manitoba is presently conducting a survey or plebiscite to find out if the farmers of Manitoba want all feed grains marketed through the Canadian Wheat Board, will the minister tell the House whether his final decision will be influenced by

[Mr. Gray.]

the result of the plebiscite since he believes in plebiscites and going by the wishes of people who vote in plebiscites?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the compliment from the hon. member about my interest in taking note of people's views. I take it he is complimenting us on the manner in which we conducted the rapeseed poll.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: No. You have it all wrong.

Mr. Lang: I hope in contrast, he does not seriously elevate to the level of a plebiscite the cheap partisan politics being played by the government of Manitoba.

Mr. Hellyer: Oh, oh, there is the old coalition broken up.

Mr. Bell: Don't forget Tuesday night!

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[Translation]

CRIMINAL CODE

ABORTION—PUBLICIZING OF CLINICS IN NEWSPAPERS

Mr. Oza Tétrault (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Justice.

Last year I asked him the following question:

Is the minister aware of advertisements in the press inviting pregnant women to get a legal abortion in Montreal or at low cost in New York clinics? If so, has the minister made any inquiries to determine whether this is contrary to the provisions of the abortion legislation?

The minister had then replied that he was going to look into the matter. Can he tell me if there is any new development in this thorny situation?

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, it is a subject which was discussed among Attorneys General at a meeting last May. The matter is not very free from doubt as the law now stands. If the law as it does stand is to be tested or enforced, that is specifically the responsibility of the provincial Attorneys General who must initiate proceedings under the Criminal Code.

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INFORMATION

RETURN TO CANADA OF INFORMATION ABOUT CANADIANS
NOW STORED IN UNITED STATES—INTRODUCTION OF
LEGISLATION

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is a supplementary to the Prime Minister with respect to the question raised by the leader of my party. Noting that the task force on privacy and computers, 1972, stated that "A great deal of personal information about Canadians, much of it highly sensitive, is stored beyond Canadian borders and therefore out of reach of Canadian law", and noting the abuses that have been referred to in the House today, would the Prime Minister personally intervene to see whether steps can be taken to