

Oral Questions

whether he is prepared to discuss that matter also with the President on Friday?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): I am going to raise with the President discussions relating to the auto pact, and I have no intention, today, to raise questions relating to Chrysler.

* * *

● (1500)

FISHERIES

OVER-THE-SIDE SALES OF SQUID

Mr. Ted Miller (Nanaimo-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. The minister is aware of the difficulties maritime fishermen have had in selling squid. Also, he is aware a representation was made earlier this summer for over-the-side sales and that the request was refused on the basis that processors had guaranteed that those squid could be purchased and processed in Canada.

Can the minister give some guarantee to maritime fishermen that he will reconsider the decision of his department to refuse over-the-side sales for maritime fishermen in regard to the dumping and the waste of that fishery resource?

Hon. James A. McGrath (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is referring to a situation recently in Nova Scotia in the area of St. George's Bay, where there was a request to sell over-the-side to Japanese freezer-tractors. At the time the request came in, Canadian processors were buying and continued to buy from Canadian fishermen.

Mr. Breau: At 12 cents a pound.

Mr. McGrath: Also, the hon. member should bear in mind that there is a very difficult market situation at the present time as a result of an oversupply situation, resulting from an oversupply in Canada and an oversupply in the other squid fisheries of the world off the coasts of Japan and New Zealand. As a consequence, Canadian freezers are bulging at this time with squid which cannot be sold. Consequently, it is not our policy to license any more foreign over-the-side sales as long as that situation prevails.

Mr. Miller: Mr. Speaker, is the minister aware that the same concern exists in Newfoundland and that Newfoundland fishermen will want some guarantees, some policy statement from the minister as to what might happen to their squid and mackerel fisheries next season?

Mr. McGrath: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am aware of that concern. I can assure the hon. member and the House that government policy in this regard will be announced in due course.

[Mr. Munro (Hamilton East).]

AGRICULTURE

REPORTED EFFECTS ON JUVENILES OF HEAVY MILK DRINKING

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe): On a lighter note, Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. According to a press report last week, Alexander G. Schauss, director of the Institute for Biological Research at City College, Tacoma, Washington, stated that studies of juvenile delinquents have shown an apparent relationship between heavy milk drinking and antisocial behaviour.

Such statements should not go unchallenged; therefore, I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture if he would consult with his colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, to refute publicly such irresponsible statements which, if left unchallenged, could do irreparable damage to dairy farmers and the dairy industry.

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, in response to the question of the hon. member, I regret that I have not had an opportunity to read the article to which the hon. member referred. I can think of a number of factors which might encourage juvenile delinquency, but certainly drinking milk is not one of them. It seems to me that it is just about as ridiculous as the statement made and reported that eating too much beef makes one ferocious.

* * *

PRIVILEGE

MR. ROBINSON (BURNABY)—ANSWER OF PRIME MINISTER DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege which affects not only my rights as a member of Parliament but those of all members of this House. In response to a serious question asked by myself of the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Clark) the clear implication of the answer given by the right hon. Prime Minister was that the persons whom I represented in asking that question, some 700 families, perhaps would have received better service had they gone directly to the Prime Minister.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Robinson (Burnaby): I ask the right hon. Prime Minister to refute categorically any suggestion that I might not be serving properly my constituents: they had every right to come to me as their member of Parliament; that it will not be necessary to bypass individual members of Parliament; that we are not nobodies, as the right hon. member for Mount Royal (Mr. Trudeau) has called us. I ask the right hon. gentleman to withdraw the insinuation that it is necessary sometimes to bypass individual members of Parliament and go directly to the right hon. Prime Minister.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, on that question of privilege, let me first assure the hon. member