

*Oral Questions*

● (1122)

**HEALTH AND WELFARE****INCREASES IN OLD AGE SECURITY PAYMENTS AND FAMILY ALLOWANCES**

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Some of us are pleased that she has not been shuffled.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** In the light of her tentative statement the other night on a CBC television program that she was hoping to get an assurance from the provinces that they would not take any steps to cut back the increases Canadians will get by way of old age security payments or family allowances, is she in a position to tell the House that she has received such assurances from the provinces?

**Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** The only response I have from the provinces is that Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta are going to pass on the increases to the recipients of the provincial supplement such as GAINS in Ontario. Newfoundland and other provinces are recommending it to their cabinets now. As to the child tax credit for children which we want to be fully passed on to mothers on mothers allowance and other welfare payments I am unfortunately still not in a position to give assurance to Canadians and I would like to give a last chance for provinces to go to their cabinets.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** May I express the hope that the minister will have this assurance from all the provinces before we get back to the discussion of Bill C-10 some day next week?

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**VETERANS AFFAIRS****ASSURANCE THAT WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCE WILL NOT BE REDUCED BECAUSE OF INCREASED GIS**

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** On the same subject, may I put a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs? It arises from his tentative assurance that an effort is being made to make sure that recipients of the war veterans allowance will not have their allowances cut back because of the increase in the guaranteed income supplement. Is he yet able to give the House and the veterans that assurance?

**Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** This is in the normal process of discussion. The assurance which the hon. member is seeking is not possible to give today. As he knows, the act pertaining to this supplement sponsored by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, has received royal assent, so I expect to have some information for the hon. member shortly.

[Mr. Crosbie.]

[Translation]

**AGRICULTURE****REQUESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF MARKETING BOARD FOR POULTRY—MINISTER'S POSITION**

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture.

Yesterday I called the attention of his parliamentary secretary to a question of paramount importance, namely the establishment of a national marketing board for poultry. The parliamentary secretary replied that this question is very seriously under review and that a decision is forthcoming. Then I directed a question to the right hon. Prime Minister, and I understand better this morning the reply he gave me yesterday when he said that he could not always look after everything himself and that is why he has ministers. I accept his reply.

Therefore, I should now like to ask the Minister of Agriculture whether poultry producers may expect in the very near future the establishment of a national marketing board to protect the interests not only of producers, but of consumers as well, as Bill C-76 would have it?

[English]

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** My parliamentary secretary answered that question correctly yesterday, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

**ALLEGED PRICE-FIXING RESPECTING TURKEYS**

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the minister.

It will soon be Christmas and it is customary for families to buy a turkey for the supper after the midnight mass. According to reports this morning, some combines have taken steps to make believe that there will be a shortage of turkeys in Canada thus inordinately increasing prices. I would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture whether he is aware of that situation and if he is not whether he would be prepared to inquire so that the marketing of that important meat will not be left in the hands of combines for Christmas.

● (1127)

[English]

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I have heard about the situation. We have done some checking with the National Farm Products Marketing Council, which has been in touch with the Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency. I think it should be remembered that that agency does not have the same control as the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency. There has been hardly any increase in the price of eggs for over two years because the pricing formula is such that the agency controls the price producers receive, as well as the distribution of eggs, which is not the case with turkeys.