

[Translation]

THE CENSUS

POSSIBLE PROSECUTION OF PERSONS REFUSING TO COMPLETE FORMS IN UNFAMILIAR LANGUAGE

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Can he tell the House whether legal action will be taken against the persons who refused to fill out the census form because it was received in the official language with which they are not familiar?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, indeed, that question is important. The Commissioner of Official Languages took up the matter with us and, last Friday we published a communiqué from which I would like to quote the following extract, if I may:

—those persons who have been unable or unwilling to fill out the questionnaire because they received an English form instead of a French one, or vice versa, need not fear that they have broken the law. A census representative will visit them after June 1 if the form was not returned. The householder will then be given a form in the official language of his choice.

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[English]

INFORMATION CANADA

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF REPORT ON SECURITY CHECK ON JEAN-LOUIS GAGNON

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): I address my question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the Prime Minister assured the House that he would have a security check made on Jean-Louis Gagnon, the head of Information Canada, but has never informed the House as to the findings, would he consider tabling for the information of hon. members the comprehensive report which was made for the cabinet following this security check?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): There was no such comprehensive report made for the cabinet. This was a report made just for myself. A question was asked on the subject more than a year ago, I believe, and I replied that I had checked, and that a security check had been made and I had been assured that there was nothing in this case to look at with alarm.

Mr. Thompson: I asked the question only because it had been brought to my attention that such a confidential report was prepared very recently. I should like to know whether we could not have the same assurance as the right hon. gentleman has given to members of the cabinet, even though he says no report has been made.

Mr. Trudeau: I can assure the hon. member, although I might perhaps be divulging cabinet secrets, that this matter has not been discussed in cabinet for more than a year as far as I can remember, and there has been no report of the nature the hon. member has suggested.

24107—50

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

GRAIN

BARLEY—ALLEGED HIGHER PRICE TO EASTERN FARMERS

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the hon. minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board.

On May 26, the minister took notice of the question I was asking him and part of which read as follows:

The Canadian Wheat Board is said to have recently sold for export 100,000 tons of feed barley at a price of 93 cents a bushel, F.O.B. Churchill, and my question is: Why do Eastern Canada cattle farmers always have to buy their feed barley at a price higher than that set by the Canadian Wheat Board for export purposes?

Is the minister in a position to answer that question today?

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): As I informed the House when I answered this question on a previous occasion, it is not customary to comment upon the particular prices of transactions between the Wheat Board and any buyer. This is information which is confidential to the buyer and the seller. But I also indicated there was automatically a wide differential between prices in the St. Lawrence ports and in Churchill because of the difference in transportation costs. I have no information which suggests to me there is any alteration in prices as between one area of destination and another. As far as I can tell, prices of feed grain moving out of Churchill and of feed grain leaving the St. Lawrence area reflect differentials which are justified by the difference in the cost of transportation.

IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSITIONAL ACREAGE PAYMENT APART FROM STABILIZATION LEGISLATION

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): I have a question for the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. In view of the fact that an overwhelming preponderance of the evidence advanced by witnesses representing western farm organizations before the Standing Committee on Agriculture this week during the sittings in connection with Bill C-244 was to the effect that the proposed \$100 million transitional acreage payment should be made at once, rather than awaiting the passage of the complete package of legislation because of its controversial nature, would the minister consult with his cabinet colleagues with a view to making this emergency acreage payment at once?

Mr. Speaker: Order. It seems to me the hon. member is bringing before the House the substance of a debate which took place when the bill itself was before us. He is also bringing before the chamber deliberations which are proceeding in the committee on agriculture, and I wonder whether a question in those terms is in order. However, since the question has been asked, perhaps the minister might reply briefly and we will then go on to the next subject.