

Oral Questions

have had no request from the government of Ontario or from anyone else at this stage.

HIGH WATER LEVELS IN GREAT LAKES—PROTECTION AND COMPENSATION FOR PROPERTY OWNERS ALONG ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Can he assure the House that property owners along the St. Lawrence River and in the Thousand Islands area will be given adequate warning and all possible protection in the event of an unusually high run-off from Lake Ontario and that they will receive adequate compensation for any damage that may result?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I cannot, of course, give a general answer to that very wide-ranging question. It is a matter of policy which has to be announced in specific instances.

HIGH WATER LEVEL IN LAKE ONTARIO—REQUEST FOR PROVISION OF ENGINEERING SERVICES TO ONTARIO RIDING

Mr. Norman A. Cafik (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. In a previous response he indicated that he had not received any specific requests for assistance from any sources in respect of possible flood damage. In light of the fact that I investigated this problem in my riding over the weekend—

Some hon. Members: Question!

Mr. Cafik: —I would like—

Some hon. Members: Question!

Mr. Cafik: I will get to the question, if you will be patient. This is an important problem to the people in my area.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Question!

Mr. Cafik: I would like to give the minister notice right now that I am requesting—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Cafik: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member has the floor for the purpose of asking a question, not to give notice.

Mr. Cafik: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I will ask the minister right now if in fact he will supply engineering services to the municipalities in my riding that want to assess what preventive steps can in fact be taken?

Mr. Alexander: Patronage!

[Mr. Richardson.]

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, we will give immediate consideration to the request from the hon. member.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

DAIRYING—MEASURES TO ENSURE FINANCIAL STABILITY FOR PRODUCERS

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

Yesterday I met a delegation of manufacturing milk producers; they are quite concerned about the considerable increase in the cost of feed which is threatening the financial balance of their operations. Can the minister tell the House what steps he intends to take immediately to hearten the manufacturing milk producers in this regard?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we are studying ways and means of aiding them now.

[Translation]

DAIRYING—REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN PRICE OF INDUSTRIAL MILK—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. Has the minister perused the brief submitted by industrial milk producers, whereby they request an immediate increase of industrial milk prices to the extent of 60 cents per 100 pounds? If so, could he inform us shortly of his reply?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I stated in reply to another hon. member in the House that we hope to be able to announce something soon.

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HOUSING

STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF FINANCE ON TELEVISION PROGRAM RESPECTING INCREASE IN COSTS—REQUEST FOR ELIMINATION OF BUILDING MATERIALS SALES TAX

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance a question. Would he inform the House on what basis he was able to state on the television program "Question Period" yesterday that housing costs increased by only 3 per cent last year, and can he inform the House whether the priority given to housing in last week's budget was based on that 3 per cent figure?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think that if the hon. member reads the transcript he will see that I was talking about the general increase in service charges, including housing, over the year 1972, and