

with all those concerned, with the farmers, the processors and the farm organizations. They all made some input before the decision was taken.

Mr. Nystrom: In view of the fact that there is to be no adjustment, I would like to ask the minister whether he would consider expanding the program to take into account the calves or other beef products and whether he intends to announce a thorough inquiry into the beef industry as he promised several weeks or months ago?

Mr. Whelan: We have no intention of immediately expanding it, Mr. Speaker, but it is not beyond the realm of possibility. The inquiry should be announced shortly.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

ALLEGED DENIAL TO WOMEN OF MEMBERSHIP IN GOVERNOR GENERAL'S FOOTGUARDS BAND

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence. Will the hon. gentleman ask his minister to end what I am advised is happening in the Governor General's Footguards in this city where women are being prevented from being members of the band? Will he suggest to the minister that this outmoded policy sets a bad example for the whole of Canada at the outset of International Women's Year?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Len Hopkins (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): As the hon. member knows, no government in Canadian history has done more to promote women's lib than has the present government. I will refer the hon. member's representation to the minister.

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): No other department of government has ever done so much to perpetuate discrimination than has been done by you or your minister.

Mr. Speaker: Do I sense a note of argumentation?

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AGRICULTURE

ALLEGED INABILITY OF VETERINARIANS TO INSPECT MEAT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. It relates to a statement made publicly by an official of the Meat Inspectors' Union that veterinarians of the Department of Agriculture who oversee the carrying out of the regulations of the infectious and contagious diseases legislation are not qualified to inspect meat intended for human consumption. Would the minister take it upon himself to refute this entirely erroneous statement which is a slur on the worldwide reputation which the health of animals branch of the Department of Agriculture has always enjoyed?

Oral Questions

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): I think the hon. member has answered the question himself. Their reputation is well known.

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SPORTS

MONTREAL OLYMPICS, 1976—INQUIRY AS TO SECURITY MEASURES—POSSIBLE INVITATION TO QUEEN TO ATTEND OFFICIAL OPENING

Mr. Sean O'Sullivan (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Solicitor General. Can the hon. gentleman give the House an assurance that adequate security provisions are being taken with regard to the 1976 Olympics so as to ensure that any head of state, any head of government, and, indeed, any visitor to Canada will be able to attend the games in safety?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. O'Sullivan: A supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister in the absence of the Prime Minister. In the light of the assurance given by the Solicitor General, and since one of the rules under which the Olympics are held—rule 56—provides that the official opening shall be conducted in the presence of the Sovereign of the host country, can the hon. gentleman advise us whether he has extended an invitation to Her Majesty, and, if he has not, will he do so immediately so as not to play along with COJO officials who wish the invitation to be extended only when it is certain that conflicting engagements will prevent the participation of the Queen of Canada?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): I think it should be open to Her Majesty to decide whether it would be convenient to her, and I am sure the hon. member would not want any expression from parliament that would suggest anything else.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

POSSIBLE LOWERING OF ELIGIBLE PENSIONABLE AGE OF NATIVE PEOPLE IN VIEW OF SHORTER LIFE EXPECTANCY

Mr. Cecil Smith (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Statistics tabled in the House by the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of Privy Council indicate that the life expectancy of Indian people in Canada is 22 years less than that of the general population. In the light of this situation is the minister giving any consideration to the possibility of lowering the age of pensionable Indian people to correspond to this situation?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I think the real answer is that we must do everything we can to improve the health of the Indian people.