

adopt a program of special measures controlling housing costs, mortgage rates, energy costs and other areas not touched by the present program?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the short answer is no. The long answer is that energy costs in the area of petroleum are already controlled, in the area of electricity they are controlled by provincial hydro and so on. There is a very long answer to which I may enjoin the hon. member to listen, and perhaps at some time debate.

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FINANCE

EFFECT OF INTERNATIONAL CURRENCY EXCHANGE DIFFICULTIES ON CANADIAN DOLLAR—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Finance. What are the implications for the Canadian dollar in the international market of the withdrawal by France from the Snake agreement?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, judging by the experience of the international markets in the last five to seven days there have been no implications for the Canadian dollar as yet. It remains, of course, one of the strong currencies on world money markets but we would have to say in general terms that we have to be concerned about any destabilizing effect of world money markets. In particular, we regret it has not been possible to continue a closer integration within the European community of something as important as exchange policy.

● (1450)

Mr. Gillies: Given the fact that there is bound to be pressure developing on the Canadian dollar, is the government going to continue its policy of allowing it to float, regardless of where it may go or will it move to a support operation?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, the pressure we are concerned with at the moment is upward rather than downward pressure. We do not propose at this time to intervene in order to move away from the floating dollar.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CAMBODIA—POSSIBLE REFERENCE OF SITUATION TO UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It was not clear from the answer he was aware of what was going on in Cambodia. Can he tell us whether his department or the government is taking any steps whatever to draw these tragic events to the attention of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights for action?

Oral Questions

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, on that specific point, I will be happy to inquire whether such representations have been made recently, and advise the hon. member.

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AGRICULTURE

BEEF STABILIZATION PROGRAM—ALLEGED RESTRICTION OF PAYMENTS TO LAND OWNER RATHER THAN HERD OWNER

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. Does the federal Department of Agriculture have a policy that restricts payments under the beef stabilization program to the land owner rather than the herd owner, and is there a regulation that would make a beef stabilization payment void for more than one herd that is kept on the described land?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): As far as I know, Mr. Speaker, it does not restrict it just to land owners.

Mr. Malone: Why then does the department refuse payment to women who owned their own herds and maintained them on separate land prior to marriage, but sold them after marriage?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the hon. member realizes that information ought to be obtained in another way.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

GUATEMALA—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON SAFETY OF CANADIANS AND AID PROGRAMS

Mr. Sean O'Sullivan (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In the hope that the situation has now stabilized somewhat, can the minister advise whether all Canadians known to be in Guatemala are reported to be safe? Also, can he give us a brief update as to whether his department had consultation with the missionaries there to determine the best form of aid beyond the initial aid given by the government?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the latest count I have is that all Canadians in Guatemala have been reported safe. The hon. member may know that in addition to the initial food aid in the form of milk powder, we have embarked upon a program of providing shelter that we hope will house a large number of people in two towns in Guatemala. We have on an individual basis been co-operating with missionary groups in Guatemala, particularly a group that was organized in the city of Hamilton. To my knowledge, we have responded to all the non-governmental efforts that have been initiated in Canada, as well as having undertaken a very extensive program of direct assistance from the government.