

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Toronto-Lakeshore, but we are coming closer and closer to the end of the question period. I would hope we could reduce the number of supplementaries.

* * *

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

FREQUENCY OF REPORTS BY FOOD PRICES REVIEW BOARD

Mr. Terry Grier (Toronto-Lakeshore): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary arises from the answer given by the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I should like to ask him whether consideration is being given by his department to altering the terms of reference of the Food Prices Review Board to instruct it to produce regular weekly or bi-weekly retail food price studies?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Any change in the terms of reference would be up to the government as a whole because they are created by order in council under the Inquiries Act. This is a matter that certainly could be considered. However, I should again say that it is my impression of the terms of reference that they are sufficiently broad to allow the board to carry on this type of activity at present at the pace suggested by the hon. member.

* * *

TRANSPORT

CONTINUITY OF CNR FERRY SERVICE TO PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND IN THE EVENT OF FUTURE LABOUR DISPUTES

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. It has to do with the concern we have had since late last summer regarding the establishment of a permanent means of transportation or continuity of the ferry service between Prince Edward Island and the mainland, and the answer by the minister's parliamentary secretary last night indicating that as a partial solution there has been a separation of the east coast marine and ferry services. Can the minister indicate whether in that separation some guarantee has been received from the director or from the various participating labour unions with respect to continuity of service during any kind of national or regional industrial dispute, which is really the crux of the matter?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I said not many months ago in the House, I believe, that I was going to try to establish contact with the unions to see how we could solve this problem. It is normal that I proceed through the Department of Labour which is the department that deals with such problems. I know that some meetings are going to take place on the matter of continuity of service, but there is also the problem of the acquired rights of these workers and we will want to see what will become of those rights before we make any move. We are in the process of trying to solve this problem on a voluntary basis with the unions.

Oral Questions

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Could the minister indicate whether either he or the Minister of Labour has advanced any specific alternatives to the unions involved that they are now considering in order that the problem can be resolved, because within a few months we may be faced with another difficult time arising from labour problems on the railways?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): I regret that the Minister of Labour is not in the House. I would like to have a report on what has been going on recently, but at the beginning of next week perhaps I can complete a report here in the House.

* * *

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

DAIRYING—ESTABLISHMENT OF REASONABLE PRICE FOR QUEBEC PRODUCERS

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture.

In view of the fact that an agreement was reached at a federal-provincial conference to ensure a most reasonable price of \$6.50 a barrel to the multinational oil producers, does the minister intend to convene the provincial ministers of agriculture to set up a price ensuring Quebec milk producers reasonable profits comparable to those granted the oil industry?

● (1140)

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we have discussed stabilizing the total agricultural industry with the provincial ministers of agriculture. Every one of them agrees with the principle involved, as does every premier also. We will be bringing in legislation in the not too distant future.

* * *

SPORTS

FORTHCOMING LEGISLATION RESPECTING WORLD FOOTBALL LEAGUE—EFFECT OF PROVISIONS OF COMPETITION BILL

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the imminent legislation proposed by the Minister of National Health and Welfare regarding the World Football League—incidentally I am happy that my ideas for Canadianizing football in Canada are being considered—and in view of existing government policy as outlined by the minister's own department in the competition bill regarding the outlawing of monopolistic practices in Canada in order to stimulate free enterprise and competition, can the minister advise the House whether this government policy will be seriously considered in the forthcoming legislation, or does the minister intend to try to amend Bill C-7 some-