

government will come forward with a stabilization program in the very near future for cow-calf operators?

Mr. Irénée Pelletier (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the government of Saskatchewan announced today that it is instituting a cow-calf producer program. Aside from the maritime provinces, the rest of Canada now has a cow-calf program. The federal government has stated on a few occasions that it intended to have a cow-calf program. We have had discussions with the provinces, but we have not yet arrived at a national program. The fact that some provinces do not agree on the level of payments that should be made nationally has prevented us from reaching an agreement with them.

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, I will again try the Prime Minister. In view of the fact there are now several provincial programs, can the Prime Minister give a commitment that the federal government will match dollar for dollar the money that the provinces are paying into a stabilization fund for cow-calf producers?

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, the government of Canada cannot make such a commitment at this time and in any case, talks with the provinces are proceeding. We will be in a position to announce it only when the provinces, the federal government and the departments of agriculture have come to an agreement on the establishment of a program or of a similar price throughout Canada.

REASON FOR WITHHOLDING INFORMATION ON DEFECTIVE MOTOR VEHICLES

Mr. Heward Graffey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, before directing my question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, I take the opportunity to congratulate him on his appointment as minister.

[English]

It has been brought to my attention that the Motor Vehicle Safety Branch of the Department of Transport has a great deal of information concerning investigations of public complaints relating to defective motor vehicles. My question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs is, why is this information kept secret and not released to the public?

Hon. A. C. Abbott (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I thank my hon. friend of long standing for his kind best wishes. It seems only yesterday that we laboured long and hard together for the great common cause of liberalism.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Abbott: While our paths have now diverged somewhat, it is heartening that we can work together for the benefit of the consumer. I must confess that I can only respond to the hon. member's question by advising that I am unaware of the possession of facts which he described being in the hands of

the Department of Transport. However, I will make inquiries and reply.

Mr. Graffey: In view of the government's new policy to supply more information to the Canadian people, in this particular instance does the minister not feel that the public has a right to know? Why is this particular information not made public in the form of a consumer bulletin as is done in the United States of America?

Mr. Abbott: Mr. Speaker, recognizing the usual good sense of the hon. member's points of view, I will take that into account in my inquiries.

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● (1500)

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

REASON FOR FAILURE TO MAKE CHANGES TO INCENTIVES ACT

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, Mr. Speaker. Having regard to the disappointing and surprising absence from the Speech from the Throne of any amendment to the Regional Development Incentives Act, in spite of recommendations from the minister's own Atlantic Advisory Council and constant reminders by provincial governments calling attention to major changes essential for the effective functioning of this Act, would the minister tell us whether the absence of any indication of change with respect to the RDIA is the result of lack of recommendations to his cabinet colleagues or, alternatively, of some objection on their part?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, no recommendations have actually been made to Cabinet at this point by myself or my department because we are now considering as we have done in recent weeks several representations made by various Canadian organizations on the ways to amend the act. I do hope that in the months to come we will be able to reach a consensus in that respect. I would then be in a position to submit to my colleagues in Cabinet the amendments that will prove appropriate to meet the needs.

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[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

GOVERNMENT VIEW ON LEGALITY OF PARTICIPATION IN OCTOBER 14TH DAY OF PROTEST

Mr. John Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour. It arises from the minister's statement on September 26 that he hopes the national strike is successful. He then went on to add he hopes it is legal. Can the minister tell us whether he and the government now take the position that the strike is legal?