

*Oral Questions***AGRICULTURE****REASON FOR QUEBEC'S INTENTION TO OPT OUT OF CANADIAN DAIRY COMMISSION—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Has the hon. gentleman received information from the dairy producers of the Province of Quebec that they have served notice of their intention not to be represented on the supply-management committee of the Canadian Dairy Commission for the coming year? If he has received such notice, can he explain the reason given by the industrial dairy producers from the Province of Quebec for wanting to opt out of the Commission?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): They have given notice unofficially, I believe, but I have not seen the official notice. They are wanting out and they have to give one year's notice before they can opt out. I think it is part of their strategy to try to renegotiate a new market share quota program because they are dissatisfied. In the Province of Quebec they have both an industrial milk marketing board and a fluid milk marketing board. Practically every province has a different organization for administering the milk marketing system. These are the groups which get together and decide how the quota is to be distributed. I do not decide this for them.

Mr. Murta: Since the implications are very serious as far as the future operations of the Dairy Commission are concerned, may I ask what plans the minister or the department have got to work with, or negotiate with, the dairy producers of Quebec to ensure that they will be in the plan for another year and that the future of the Dairy Commission will not be badly damaged as a result of this move?

Mr. Whelan: We are concerned that the Dairy Commission should operate in an efficient manner. There is a dispute as to how this quota should be divided among fluid producers and industrial producers. However, it is up to them to run their business. We, of course, would like to see it run as harmoniously as possible but the minister has no authority to direct the commission as to how it should operate its affairs. Under the Wheat Board Act the government can give direction by order in council, but this is not such a situation.

* * *

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**NATIONAL FORESTRY POLICY—CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES—REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF PROPOSALS**

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, my question, which is directed to the Minister of the Environment, is consequent upon the question asked yesterday by the hon. member for Prince George-Peace River with respect to forest policy. Since any initiative by officials of the federal forestry service in developing a national policy have been stifled by the government as a result of divided jurisdiction among at least 20 federal agencies meddling in this field, can the minister tell us whether it is the intention of the government at least to co-ordinate the

[Mr. Allmand.]

various activities of these agencies, all of which, or many of which, may be in conflict or at cross-purposes with each other?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I think that this question is much more clever and a lot clearer than the one which was put to me yesterday regarding forestry policy in Canada. As the hon. member for Carleton-Charlotte fully knows jurisdiction over forestry belongs mostly to provincial governments. Only federal territories and the Northwest Territories come under our jurisdiction. However we have been in touch with each of the provinces in the hope that they will cooperate with us in working out a national forestry policy. So far the responses have been extremely encouraging.

[English]

Mr. McCain: I cannot agree with the premise on which the answer is based. For that reason I ask this supplementary question. With regard to the proposed federal-provincial discussion on the matter of a national forest policy, will the minister indicate what form the consultation will take and whether he intends to establish a national policy, as in agriculture, fishing, etc., and assume the cost of such a national program, or is it the intention of the government, as in so many other recent policy statements, to transfer financial responsibility in full or in part to the provinces?

● (1200)

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member will understand that before we can do anything in this field, since the provinces have the larger share of jurisdiction in this area, they would have to agree to have a meeting. I have received information from almost all provinces that they are ready to discuss with us and elaborate on some national policies in the fields I have mentioned.

* * *

HOUSING**REPRESENTATIONS TO ANTI-INFLATION BOARD ON BEHALF OF INDUSTRY—REQUEST FOR REPORT**

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. As the minister is aware, the housing industry is very sensitive to the economic cycle, and profits rise and fall depending on whether the industry is in a boom or a bust phase. With this in mind, can the minister tell the House whether he has made any representations to the Anti-Inflation Board on behalf of the housing industry, and, if so, what has been their reaction?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Certainly there have been boom and bust cycles, Mr. Speaker, and the booms have outweighed the busts by a long shot in recent years. I did meet today with representatives of the housing industry and discussed relationships with the Anti-Inflation Board. We are working closely with them. Fortunately, somebody must have been