

Oral Questions

mary and secondary industry, would the minister now give some assurance that he will implement a policy of holding public hearings prior to the cabinet making a decision? In other words, will he attempt to get all the input possible on the economic factors involved before the cabinet makes a decision on this extremely important matter?

Mr. Stanfield: Like Pickering.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Yes, it was very useful.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): When the hon. member says that we are acting unilaterally, perhaps I should point out that the United States did the same thing. One day they decided to maintain their tolls in order to reduce the debt, and they did that without consulting us. We were just informed of it. We may have to do the same thing, or find some other formula. As to whether it is necessary to have a public inquiry, I submit that if we can avoid it we will.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether the minister realizes that this is an extremely important and sensitive matter which he should not be treating lightly, and I do not think that he is, but I should like to ask one final question in order to get some assurance from the minister in respect of the direction he is going. Can he assure the House at this time that when he eventually makes a refinancing decision in respect of the St. Lawrence seaway he will make every effort to prevent increases in tolls which would seriously affect our export trade, Canada-U.S. relations and primary and secondary industries in Canada?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the House that this is something I will have in mind from the very beginning to the end.

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AGRICULTURE**POSSIBILITY ORGANIZED CRIME CAUSES INCREASE IN PRICE OF HAMBURGER—REQUEST FOR STRENGTHENING OF INVESTIGATING COMMISSION**

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Food Prices Review Board investigation in the meat industry did not reveal any significant facts, with the chairman stating that the current inquiry into beef marketing will accomplish very little, and in view of the statement of the chairman of the Quebec police commission that organized crime has even cost the teenager a little more in respect of the price of a hamburger, will the Minister of Agriculture strengthen the terms of reference of the commission to include the services of the RCMP in order to conduct an in depth investigation?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the commission will use all the people it thinks can help it in carrying out a proper investigation.

[Mr. Alexander.]

Mr. Towers: Mr. Speaker, will the terms of reference provide that witnesses can be issued subpoenas and questioned under oath?

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**ALLEGATION SHOWING OF FILM "WHERE ARE YOU GOING COMPANY TOWN", UNFAIR TO TRAIL, B.C.—REQUEST FOR REDRESS**

Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the National Film Board has produced and shown on national CBC a so-called documentary film entitled "Where are you going Company Town", which is a biased, distorted, profane and unfavourable representation of the city of Trail, will the Secretary of State request a national showing of a previously produced unbiased film to be shown to Canadians to at least in part redress the wrong perpetrated on Trail by the CBC and the National Film Board?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I will make those representations known to the corporation.

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AGRICULTURE**BROILER CHICKENS—ALLEGED UNJUSTIFIED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RETAIL PRICE AND PRODUCERS' RETURN—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture what he proposes to do regarding the charges raised by the Food Prices Review Board in its report on the broiler chicken industry to the effect that the price spread between what the producer gets and the retail price cannot be justified?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, there is no national broiler chicken marketing board. There are provincial marketing boards such as the one here which has its authority vested by the province of Ontario. We do grant them the authority to operate inter-provincially. They may be operating in a fashion that some hon. members would question, and if hon. members can give me some real evidence of that other than what Mrs. Plumptre presents I will look into it.

BROILER CHICKENS—INCREASED AMOUNT IN STORAGE—POSSIBLE USE IN FOREIGN AID PROGRAM

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I would then ask the minister what he proposes to do about the growing cold storage surplus of broiler chickens in Canada, which I understand has increased from 31 million pounds in September to 34 million pounds today? Perhaps I could also ask the minister whether he intends to pursue his plans to set up a broiler chicken marketing board, notwithstanding the recommendations of the Food Prices Review Board?