

say whether the Canadian and world economies are now entering a hyper-inflation phase?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, that is a matter of judgment and vocabulary.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will not say that I necessarily agree with the answer by the minister, but I do take exception to the question from a procedural standpoint. The hon. member has asked for an expression of opinion and a question in those terms should not be asked.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIONS TO TURKEY TO CONTINUE BAN ON CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPY

Mr. Ron Atkey (St. Paul's): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the fact the government of Turkey has lifted its three-year ban against opium poppy cultivation, contrary to the wishes of many western nations, and in view of the fact that up to 80 per cent of the heroin in Canada is said to originate in Turkey and is causing untold crime and human suffering here, would the Secretary of State for External Affairs indicate whether he has made any representations to the Turkish government urging that it reimpose its ban on poppy cultivation? Is he considering reductions in our economic and military aid to Turkey as a means of making Canadian views felt on this subject?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the Turkish government has not yet taken a decision to renew cultivation of opium poppies, and at the meeting of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Geneva last month the Canadian representative commended the government of Turkey for its humanitarian effort up to the present in reducing production.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

SUGGESTED EXEMPTION OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS FROM PAYMENTS TO CANADA PENSION PLAN ON BEHALF OF ELECTED OFFICIALS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that many municipal councils pay a share of Canada Pension Plan contributions on behalf of their elected representatives, and in view of the fact that most councillors are otherwise employed and are therefore able to recover their portion of Canada Pension Plan contributions when they file their income tax returns, will the minister review the 1969 cabinet decision and give consideration to exempting municipal governments from making these contributions in cases where elected officials are otherwise employed?

Oral Questions

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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AGRICULTURE

POSSIBILITY OF IMPORTED CATTLE CONTAINING DES—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO PREVENT

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture which has to do with the cattle situation at the present time and the possibility that United States cattle coming into Canada contain the growth stimulant DES. Can he very briefly explain the government's position on this matter and indicate more specifically whether there will be any move in the very near future to restrict United States cattle containing this growth stimulant from coming into Canada?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, both the Minister of National Health and Welfare and myself have stated in the past that it is illegal to sell meat in Canada that comes from cattle that have been implanted with or fed the growth stimulant DES, and we are going to make sure that none of that meat is allowed into Canada.

Mr. Murta: Since cattle that have been implanted with DES could be coming into Canada in quantity as early as the first part of April, what methods will the minister use to stop these cattle from entering Canada?

Mr. Stanfield: He can recognize them.

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, at the present time we are discussing several methods.

BEEF CATTLE—SUGGESTED ADJUSTMENT OF TIME LIMIT ON SUBSIDY ON GRADES A3 AND A4—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to the question asked of the Minister of Agriculture and relates to meat prices. In view of the fact that dressed meat in shopping centres and chain stores in Montreal fell three cents this morning, and in view of the fact that 2,500 head were held over in Toronto from yesterday because of the chaotic situation in the industry, is the minister prepared to adjust the time limit on his subsidy on grades A3 and A4, particularly because of the situation in the market right now?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, this has been suggested by other hon. members of the House, and also by the Canadian Cattlemen's Association. It is being looked at. I can only say that I would hope we do not build up any false hopes in the trade and that they will continue to go about marketing cattle like good corporations should.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): You are destroying confidence in the industry.