

AGRICULTURE

BEEF CATTLE SUBSIDY—SUGGESTION FOR PAYMENT TO FARMERS SELLING CATTLE AT COMMUNITY SALES

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that no premiums are being paid to farmers selling at community sales, would the department give consideration to the stabilization board supplying and attaching tags to slaughter cattle for sale so that the rebate can be paid to the farmer rather than the money all going to the packing plants?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): I think we have given consideration to just about every means of making sure that these premiums are paid to those who are entitled to them, that is, to the producers of the beef. We shall certainly look into the hon. member's suggestion although I am sure it has been considered. It is very difficult to administer because many of these commodities change hands as many as ten times before they actually get to the packing firm.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

INCREASE IN PRICE OF ASPHALT AS RESULT OF INCREASE IN PRICE OF CRUDE OIL—SUGGESTED REDUCTION OF SALES TAX

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance concerning the increase in the price of oil by-products as a result of the increase in the wellhead price of oil. For example, the price of asphalt has risen by almost 100 per cent. Would the minister tell us whether he took this into account at the time the wellhead price of oil was increased?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Without accepting the full implications of the preamble, may I say we also took account of the fact that the price in Canada is about \$4 below the world price.

Mr. Darling: In view of the fact that the price of asphalt has doubled in the last few months and is expected to increase still further, would the minister consider reducing the 12 per cent federal sales tax on asphalt to ease the burden on builders and other users of asphalt such as municipalities and provincial governments?

Mr. Speaker: That, of course, is a representation for consideration by the minister. Orders of the day.

Mr. MacKay: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I shall be brief. I would not want to try to sneak an argumentative point past Your Honour. But it relates to a statement made by the President of the Treasury Board on March 25, reported at page 852 of *Hansard*. It is also relevant to what was said today with respect to the situation at Vancouver. On March 25 the President of the Treasury Board said:

In the case of regional pay policy, the government for years has taken the position that it would not be a leader in matters of pay and salary

Yukon and Northwest Territories

but would follow the pattern set by what is generally known in this country as the private sector.

It is plain, and it is on the record of this House, that there is a differential of at least \$3,000 in Vancouver between what the firefighters at the airport are receiving and what firefighters in the private sector are receiving, so I believe it is incumbent upon the minister to set the record straight and tell us whether or not he intends to follow the principle he stated in the House.

Mr. Speaker: That is hardly a point of order. Perhaps the hon. member will have an opportunity on another occasion to become involved in a debate with the minister on this matter.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

WAYS AND MEANS

CUSTOMS TARIFF

The House proceeded to the consideration of a ways and means motion concerning the Customs Tariff.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance) moved:

That a ways and means motion laid upon the table Friday, March 1, 1974, concerning the Customs Tariff be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

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[English]

CUSTOMS TARIFF

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance) moved that Bill C-21, to amend the Customs Tariff be read the first time and ordered to be printed.

Motion agreed to.

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YUKON, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AND CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING COUNCILS AND ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-9, to amend the Yukon Act, the Northwest Territories Act and the Canada Elections Act, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Mr. Len Marchand (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development) moved:

That Bill C-9 be amended

(a) by deleting "9.2" in Clause 1 in line 14 on page 1 and substituting therefor "9.1"