

Oral Questions
AGRICULTURE

POSSIBLE REMOVAL OF EXPORT CONTROLS ON CATTLE—
REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN REGULATIONS COVERING
FEEDER CATTLE

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture and has to do with the embargo on cattle exports to the United States. I would ask whether the government or his department has given consideration to determining if this embargo will end on September 12 when the controls imposed by the United States will terminate?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, this all depends on what action is taken by the United States. If they remove their controls we hope to be able to remove our export controls as well at the same time.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, in addition to that, between now and September 12 when it is believed these controls will be removed by the United States, will the minister give immediate attention to changing the regulations now in effect which result in feeder cattle of top grades being denied export from Canada while lower grades are allowed to be shipped out with the result that Canadian feedlot companies and organizations have to compete with the United States for our feeder cattle which are under embargo, and this is working havoc with our feedlot operations?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, we are watching this very closely. I am in close consultation with the Minister of Trade and Commerce who has the authority to use these export-import permit controls. I am in close contact as well with the Canadian Cattlemen's Association and other organizations. I have had conversations with the feedlot operators in the west and in the east. We realize that a situation does exist and that feeder cattle are going to the United States. I would report to the House, Mr. Speaker, that feeder cattle have moved to the United States in other years in greater numbers than are now moving. This government does not like to put excessive controls on anybody.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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HOUSING

INQUIRY AS TO GOVERNMENT ACTION TO CONTROL COST

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question in relation to his statement in respect of measures to deal with the cost of living. Does the government intend to take any other immediate measures to control the high cost of housing which is causing a great deal of suffering to those Canadians who want to purchase homes?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I answered a similar question yesterday by

[Mr. Lawrence.]

indicating that when further measures are to be taken we will announce them in the usual way.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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FINANCE

INTEREST RATES—SUGGESTED INTERVENTION BY BANK
OF CANADA TO CONTROL

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance a further question. In light of the fact that interest rates have reached an all-time high, causing suffering to those in the middle and low-income brackets, will the government now intervene with the Bank of Canada to make certain that interest rates are either rolled back or controlled?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. gentleman in his quieter moments would understand that interest rates are responding to a very strong expansion in the economy and a very strong demand for credit. The international interest rates have resulted in the unprecedented situation where Canadian interest rates on short and medium-term money are two to three points lower than in the United States and five points lower than in any other industrial country in Europe.

An hon. Member: So what?

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask one additional supplementary question. Do I take it from the answer of the Minister of Finance that he is going to leave the whole problem on the shoulders of the medium and low-income people of Canada, irrespective of the excessive—

Some hon. Members: Order, order.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

DISPUTE WITH RAILWAY EMPLOYEES—SUGGESTED
APPOINTMENT OF THREE ARBITRATORS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. In view of the great number of issues in dispute remaining between railway workers and the companies and the difficulty facing one arbitrator in dealing with all these matters in dispute, is the minister in a reasonably short time going to give consideration to the appointment of three arbitrators, one to deal with each of the unions in dispute with the companies?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): No, Mr. Speaker. As the hon. member is aware, today we have appointed Mr. Justice Emmett Hall as the arbitrator with reference to the non-operating unions. We are talking now with the leaders in respect of the shopcrafts and the UTU, and we will listen to their submissions as to how they wish to proceed. They might wish to negotiate for a time