

[English]

AGRICULTURE

POSSIBILITY OF ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS IF AFFECTED ADVERSELY BY TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Since the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce has pledged assistance if needed to small business firms affected by the upcoming trade negotiations with the United States, can the minister tell the House if Canadian agriculture and specifically farmers can look for economic aid if they are in any way adversely affected by the same negotiations?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, even by the seating arrangement in the House hon. members can see that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and myself are in constant consultation.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Vancouver South. Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member but I believe the hon. member for Lisgar has a supplementary. I will recognize him for that purpose and then I will see the hon. member for Vancouver South.

Mr. Murta: In light of the hardships that will be experienced under the new tariff reductions brought down by the present government and presumably with the minister's knowledge and seal of approval, how does he intend to convince the farmers of Canada that he is sincere in what he has said?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question obviously is not in order.

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YOUTH

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—REPORTED RESIGNATION OF VANCOUVER ADVISORY BOARD

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State and arises out of the questions that have just been asked him involving opportunities for youth grants. Word has just been received that the advisory board in Vancouver has resigned. Can the minister advise whether this is so? I might also advise him that I have not received any OFY applications in my office.

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, on the first part of the question, my information is about as sketchy as that of the hon. member. I hope to get clarification on the status of this board at the end of the question period. In terms of having received projects or not, these are going out across the country in stages. Some areas are being dealt with first and in those areas the projects will be arriving in members' offices ahead of some other members. There is nothing to fear. The hon. member's city will get its share.

Oral Questions

Mr. Fraser: Could the minister give some assurance that if this in fact happens an appropriate extension will be given for OFY grants in Vancouver?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question is hypothetical. I bring to the attention of hon. members that we are coming to the end of the question period. I recognize that a number of members are seeking supplementaries but there would not be time between now and the end of the question period to have all the supplementaries on this subject. The hon. member for Edmonton Centre.

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SPORTS

POSSIBLE MERGER OF NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE AND WORLD HOCKEY ASSOCIATION—ACTION TO RETAIN PRESENT CANADIAN FRANCHISES IN WHA

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and refers to the fact that the National Hockey League and the World Hockey Association are discussing merger. Does the government intend to take any steps so that the franchises of WHA clubs in Canada will remain in Canada and not go to the United States, as I am informed will happen when the merger takes place?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the present combines law does not cover services. I hope my hon. friend will support the new policy in due course that may cover services. In any event, I would be happy to discuss this matter with the Minister of National Health and Welfare. If I am not mistaken, his predecessor did take some initiatives in this regard.

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister. In view of the fact the 11 WHA clubs plan to merge with the NHL, and in view of the fact that only one of the 11 plans to remain in Canada, would the Prime Minister use his good offices to see that the franchises that are Canadian remain in Canada?

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AIR TRANSPORT

GOVERNMENT POSITION IN LIGHT OF OPPOSITION TO REQUIREMENT THAT AIRCRAFT BE EQUIPPED WITH EMERGENCY LOCATOR TRANSMITTERS

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that federal plans requiring emergency locator transmitters in aircraft are running into opposition from the aviation community owing to their cost, what positive action does the government contemplate to ensure that all airplanes will now be equipped with this safety device?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think I announced a few months ago that some devices will be compulsory from January 1, 1974. In the meantime, we are in consultation with the industry, with the aviation clubs and those who are interested in aviation. We have received this kind of comment and we are