

Oral Questions

importance and the insecurity of which those producers are the victims?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Milk Supply Management Committee met in Ottawa. Both the dairy groups from Quebec, one from the fluid milk producers and one from the industrial milk sector, with Mr. Mailloux and Mr. St-Martin. Again, this morning in Montreal I met with the representatives of the UPA who made representations about the problem they face in the distribution of their quota within their province. The Co-op Fédérée and the UPA presented a joint brief to the members of cabinet on the panel. We had a lengthy discussion with them. The ones we met today are the ones who distribute the quotas within the province. They admit they are having some problems and the Milk Supply Management Committee which was here yesterday has promised to come up with what they hope will be a solution to this problem within two weeks. They will report back to me at that time. The Minister of Agriculture does not, as many people think, exercise total control. The farm organizations and the marketing boards within the provinces have authority over the distribution of the quota to the farmers in the area. The committee hopes to come up with a plan to solve the problem within the next week or two and it will be submitted to the Canadian Dairy Commission at that time.

[Translation]

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, on a supplementary. I find it very interesting to hear the minister speak of the meetings and discussions he has had. Because of the situation, the minister will understand that several dairy producers are extremely worried and ask us, as members of Parliament, what is going to happen to them. Can the minister at least assure the House that he is willing to co-operate in the study of any reasonable and acceptable proposal the producers' federation might make?

[English]

Mr. Whelan: I am sure even the hon. member will admit that the present Minister of Agriculture is probably one of the most reasonable that Canada has ever had.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Whelan: I am willing to meet any reasonable suggestion the producers put forward. I think I have been more than generous and I do not believe anyone could say I have been conservative with the dairy farmers. They could say I have even been very liberal with them.

Some hon. Members: Oh!

Mr. Whelan: The amount of money we have put into the program to make sure there was a healthy environment and a proper income for the work done is to be seen in the records. But they have some responsibility for administering the quotas. They have the responsibility of administering their share of the national quota which is provided for them. I know

[Mr. La Salle.]

that approximately 90 per cent of dairy producers in Canada have no problem—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Grenville-Carleton.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

UNEMPLOYMENT—POSSIBILITY PRIME MINISTER WILL MAKE STATEMENT ON JOB-CREATION PROGRAM

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. In answer to a question by the hon. member for St. John's East the hon. gentleman said there had been no undertaking given by the Prime Minister that he would be making a statement in this House tomorrow, nor was there such an intention on his part. My question is this: Is the Prime Minister planning to make a statement at a press conference outside the House tomorrow with respect to a job creation program as is mooted in the press today?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister): I cannot preclude the possibility of the Prime Minister meeting the press tomorrow, but that was not the question which was put to me by the hon. member for St. John's East. Nevertheless, I can say specifically, I think, that the Prime Minister will not be making a statement in the House or elsewhere tomorrow on the subject of a job creation program.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Is the Prime Minister planning to make a statement outside the House tomorrow in respect of any program involving the Canadian economy? In the answer to that question is yes, would the Deputy Prime Minister instruct the Prime Minister—

Some hon. Members: Oh!

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):—that with television in this chamber, because members opposite insisted on it, the Prime Minister ought to make his statement here or else he will be judged accordingly.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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CRIMINAL CODE

REASON FOR DELAY IN IMPLEMENTING GUN CONTROL PROVISIONS

Hon. Stanley Haidasz (Parkdale): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Bearing in mind frequent incidents of hostage-taking and other acts of violence carried out by the use of guns, I should like to ask the minister what is preventing the implementation of the gun control laws which were passed last session?