

Oral Questions

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of State (Mines)): Madam Speaker, we had a very good meeting with representatives from the community of Faro. The matter is now being considered by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

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TRADE**IMPENDING RULING BY UNITED STATES ON CANADIAN LUMBER EXPORTS**

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Madam Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Prime Minister. As he knows, a ruling regarding countervailing duties is being made today in Washington. Since within the next couple of hours we will find out whether or not certain federal policies which have been put in place will be judged by the U.S. Department of Commerce hearings as being subsidies, would the Prime Minister commit to this House that by tomorrow on motions, earlier if possible, he will make a statement to this House on what steps he intends to take should it be found that there are subsidies and countervailing duties will be applied against our forest industry which will affect one worker in ten in Canada?

● (1440)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The question is hypothetical, Madam Speaker.

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AGRICULTURE**COMPULSORY GRADING OF BEEF CARCASSES FOR EXPORT**

Mr. Bert Hargrave (Medicine Hat): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. He will be aware of his Department's intention to require compulsory grading of beef carcasses crossing both the provincial borders and the U.S. border. The grade is applied both as a stamp and roller brand. It is applied with a colour code. The difficulty with export carcass grading is that our red roller brand indicates the top grade in Canada, while blue is the United States top grade colour. Will the Minister explain why it is suddenly necessary to require compulsory grading on Canadian export carcasses?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, if I remember correctly, I believe it is because of a legislative change that took place. It is restating this regulation that has always been there. That is why it has been published and gazetted.

Mr. Hargrave: With the greatest respect to the Minister, Madam Speaker, there have been regulations that allowed for voluntary use only, not for a compulsory run.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER REVIEW SITUATION

Mr. Bert Hargrave (Medicine Hat): Madam Speaker, in view of the March 9 deadline for receiving objections to this current proposal, and in view of the special problems this grading change makes for Lakeside Packers at Brooks, Alberta, which presently exports the largest amount of carcass beef from Canada to the United States, would the Minister look into this matter before we lose a very good beef export order, and reinstate the optional grade standards listed in Section 11 of the regulations?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, we are reviewing this clause as well as mechanisms to provide quickly for approval of ungraded shipments when the importing country desires it. It is the importing country that desires the stamp. We are going to make sure that it is done properly. It is they who want it.

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[Translation]

AIR CANADA**STATUS OF RCMP INQUIRY INTO TRANSFER OF HEADQUARTERS**

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Solicitor General. He is aware that the transfer to Montreal of Air Canada Headquarters last December at a cost \$10 million higher than the price quoted in the second best offer is being investigated by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police at the request of the Minister of Justice with the approval of the Minister of Transport. Can the Solicitor General now tell the House how this investigation is going and what was its nature?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice): Madam Speaker, it would be quite improper for me to make a statement about an investigation which has not yet been completed.

Mr. La Salle: Madam Speaker, I thought that the Solicitor General was responsible for the RCMP. However, I shall put my question to the Minister of Justice. Can he tell us when we will be able to make this investigation public and, since Canadians will pay \$10 million more than they should, whether he intends to make its results public? The Minister will agree that the taxpayer has the right to know why we should pay \$10 million more for new Air Canada headquarters.

Mr. MacGuigan: Madam Speaker, my reply to the Hon. Member has to be the same as to his first question.