

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I answered this question the other day when I said that on October 15, 1968 the Canadian Wheat Board issued an instruction that priority should be given to the shipment of damp grain to terminal positions. I announced that four or five days ago.

[Later:]

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, may I direct this question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact that some specialty crops in western Canada, specifically flax and rapeseed, will suffer considerably if they are left out for the winter, is any thought being given by the hon. gentleman's department or by the wheat board to making special provision in order that these crops, which are not large in volume, may be moved quickly to the dryers?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I have already indicated that some measures have been taken by the wheat board to give priority to the moving of damp grain. I will find out whether they apply to the grains mentioned by the hon. member.

CHEESE—REDUCTION IN FLOOR PRICE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lee Grills (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I would direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. Since the floor price of cheddar cheese is being lowered by 5 cents a pound—from 47 cents to 42 cents—on November 1, has any action been taken, or will it be taken, to relieve producers who find themselves in an impossible position, perhaps being forced to close their doors? The price of milk, as the minister knows, is exactly the same—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has asked his question.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have had a number of meetings with members of the house and representatives from the cheese producing industry, particularly the processors. The lowering of the floor price from 47 cents to 42 cents a pound effective November 1 is something that has been well known to the industry for a long time. The reason for it is that some of the cheddar cheese produced in the wintertime is surplus and is costing the dairy industry around 15 cents a pound to export from Canada. The policy has been announced that we need to discourage the production of more cheese in this season, when we produce against the surplus stock.

Mr. Grills: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. If that is the case, is any consideration being given to some reimbursement for diverting commercial milk to butter plants and thus maintaining the staff of cheese plants in employment and relieving the cheese situation by helping manufacturers?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, this problem arises with processing plants that are exclusively producing cheese. As the hon. member knows, this is a problem of particular concern to some parts of Ontario. I believe it is up to the provincial officials to make arrangements for the transfers during certain seasons, because they have control of that matter and of the pooling of fluid and manufacturing milk in Ontario.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO MEMBERS OF ADVISORY COUNCIL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. William Skoreyko (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Is he now in a position to name the members of the consumer advisory council, as Dr. Leighton was appointed on July 17?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, but I am very optimistic that I shall be able to name them within two weeks.

Mr. Skoreyko: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since the federal-provincial conference is scheduled for next Monday, is the minister able to table the agenda for that conference?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, when I announced the holding of the conference on October 28 I said the conference would explore areas of federal-provincial co-operation in fields of credit, consumer protection and trade practices. However, since this is an exploratory conference the arrangement and agreement among governments have been that a detailed agenda would not be published.

INDUSTRY

PROPOSED MEETING TO VALUE ASSETS OF DOSCO

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the