

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I do not quite understand the question. Lake Louise is located in a national park and the project the hon. member refers to is probably the one that is now under study; tenders have been called and a public hearing was held before we took a final decision.

[English]

Mr. Harding: Has any federal money been expended to date on this project, and if so, how much was allocated by the department, how much has been spent, and for what purposes?

Mr. Speaker: I think that the question, which is essentially statistical in nature, should be placed on the order paper.

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AGRICULTURE

POTATOES—POSSIBLE DIVERSION TO FEED STOCK— ATTENDANCE OF MINISTER AT MEETING IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): I would like to pose a question to the Minister of Agriculture, and ask him whether he is prepared within 24 hours to approve the diversion of surplus potatoes held by the Agricultural Stabilization Board to animal feed, and if not, whether the minister is prepared to have his deputy or himself attend a mass meeting of potato growers in Prince Edward Island tomorrow as requested by the PEI Federation of Agriculture. I warn the minister that potato growers in Prince Edward Island have their Irish up and tomorrow is St. Patrick's Day—

• (1550)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has asked the question. The minister might be given the opportunity to answer.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): I can advise the House that we have made the preparations that will be necessary for diversion of potatoes to livestock feed if and when that appears to be the most beneficial action to take.

An hon. Member: When?

Mr. Olson: I cannot give an undertaking that it will be done within 24 hours. When I arrived in the House today, I was unaware of this so-called mass meeting that is being called.

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): A supplementary question for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that there has been this request, which perhaps the minister has not yet seen, I wonder whether he can take steps to arrange that either he or his deputy minister meet with the potato growers in Prince Edward Island in order to alleviate much of the misunderstanding and concern that has arisen in the past few weeks over this matter?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we are always anxious to alleviate any misunderstanding, but within the hours that have been set, whether all the arrangements can be made, is something I will have to investigate.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the last supplementary on this subject. Afterwards, with the assistance of hon. members, I shall try to recognize those who were not recognized yesterday and, to the best of my recollection, I shall try to give them priority for a few minutes. The hon. member for Hillsborough on a supplementary.

POTATOES—CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCIAL MINISTER OR FARM ORGANIZATIONS IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): A supplementary for the Minister of Agriculture. In light of this very serious situation, has the minister communicated with the provincial minister of agriculture or with the federation of agriculture, to consult on a worsening situation?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have not spoken directly to the minister of agriculture, but I believe the federal deputy minister did yesterday. The other important factor is that potatoes are now selling at about 25 per cent over our purchase price in Prince Edward Island—

An hon. Member: We were told all that yesterday.

[Translation]

REQUEST BY QUEBEC MINISTER FOR ASSISTANCE TO GROWERS

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary to the Minister of Agriculture.

Can he tell us whether or not he was recently asked by his opposite number in Quebec to participate in the financial aid program requested by Quebec potato growers who lost 50 per cent of their crop last fall because they had a bad year?

[English]

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the offer to purchase potatoes and to make a cash advance was made equally to Quebec and to the other provinces.

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YOUTH

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH—STATUS OF APPLICATION FOR STUDENTS EXPERIMENTAL TRANSIT SYSTEM

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State. In view of the wholly unacceptable deterioration of rail service to Barrie, Orillia and points north, has the Secretary of State given his personal attention to the application under the Opportunities for Youth Program for \$110,000 to finance a train