

Oral Questions

Mr. McKinnon: If the government procrastinates much longer on this decision, they will be able to wheel their final choice directly into the air museum at Rockcliffe. Can the minister now give us another of his firm dates for the decision to be announced?

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe a firm date has ever been stated. The decision will be made shortly.

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AGRICULTURE

REQUEST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA PRODUCERS FOR SURTAX ON IMPORTED CHERRIES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Kootenay): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. What reply has the minister given to the request of the British Columbia cherry growers for the immediate application of a surtax on distressed-priced cherries?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I received a telegram this morning from the British Columbia Fruit Growers Association requesting that the surtax be placed on imported cherries. We have followed these developments since the provincial minister made a similar request two or three days ago. Because of the season in Washington being practically over—it will be over by the end of the week—our officials have told us that because of the ripening of their cherries, their inability to be shipped and so on, they do not foresee any need at this time for a surcharge. We will continue to watch the situation very closely.

Mr. Johnston: Is the Department of Agriculture any closer to developing an automatic formula that could be applied to this sort of situation without the inevitable delay that is so damaging to the local growers?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, they still have a 10 per cent *ad valorem* duty. There is a 3 per cent difference in the exchange. It costs the importers that much more for United States produce. There is not the tremendous loss that was expected. There is still discussion going on with regard to this automatic machinery that we need so badly.

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ENERGY

ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING RADIATION LEVELS OF WASTE DUMPS OF ELDORADO NUCLEAR AT PORT HOPE—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF REPORT

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I have given him notice of my question. The minister moved promptly to cause an investigation by the Atomic Energy Control Board into the serious allegations respecting the radiation and toxicity levels of the waste dumps of the Crown corporation Eldorado Nuclear of Port Hope. My question to the minis-

[Mr. Richardson.]

ter now is has he received the report, what is in it, what is he going to do about it?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for having given me notice of the question. As indicated, I did cause an inquiry to be made by the Atomic Energy Control Board which has now had an opportunity to inspect the sites in Durham County. They have made a report recommending tighter physical security of the particular site and closer monitoring procedures to be followed, both with regard to radiation activity and other environmental risks. The board representatives will be meeting with the Ontario department of the environment and Eldorado Nuclear on Friday for the purpose of discussing the report. I hope then to be able to give the hon. member and the House a fuller report on the conclusions.

Mr. Lawrence: As this whole question of radioactivity and toxicity from nuclear waste is a problem that will be with us from now until eternity, will the minister be good enough to release that report or, to use his phrase, lay it on the House?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly be glad to lay it on the hon. member.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): After the two levels of government have been able to discuss the matter on Friday, I think it might be useful to see if a combined report can be made available for public scrutiny.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

DAIRYING—GOVERNMENT'S POLICY CONCERNING IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF BUTTER AND CHEESE

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture.

Can he tell us whether he or his department are obliged to respect the long term policies decreed by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce with regard to the import and export of butter and cheese?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, if I heard the hon. member's question correctly, he is asking if we agree with the program. At the present time, we do.

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HEALTH

ALLEGATION PROSPECTIVE MOTHERS SENT TO UNITED STATES WHERE THEIR CHILDREN ADOPTED—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I have a question which I believe should be directed to the Minister of National Health and Wel-