

AGRICULTURE

AID TO FARMERS SELLING CATTLE BECAUSE
OF DROUGHT CONDITIONS

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Hon. Paul Martineau (Pontiac-Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should have liked to ask the Minister of Agriculture a question but, in his absence I shall put it to the Minister of Forestry who is responsible for eastern agriculture.

Could the minister tell us what steps the government intends to take to assist Ottawa valley farmers who are now forced to get rid of their cattle owing to the shortage of water and fodder?

Hon. Maurice Sauvé (Minister of Forestry): Mr. Speaker, that matter comes under the Quebec minister of agriculture. If the province wishes to call upon Ottawa, we shall be glad to help.

Mr. Martineau: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Can the minister tell us whether or not such a call has been made and if he is aware of the present crisis?

Mr. Sauvé: Mr. Speaker, since none were made in previous cases, I doubt that there was a call this time.

[Text]

[Later:]

Mr. C. S. Smallwood (Battle River-Camrose): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister in view of the fact the hon. member for Pontiac-Témiscamingue did not obtain a satisfactory reply from the Minister of Agriculture.

I am referring to the drought which is forcing farmers to sell their cattle, as reported in today's newspaper, and I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he will look into this very serious situation; because if these farmers are forced to sell their cattle at this time it will force the cattle market across Canada to an even lower level with a resulting adverse effect on the economy of this country.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to look into this matter.

Inquiries of the Ministry

BRIDGES

JACQUES CARTIER BRIDGE, MONTREAL—
AGREEMENT RESPECTING SALE

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport?

I should like to ask him whether the government of the province of Quebec has entered into an agreement with the federal government for the purpose of acquiring the Jacques Cartier bridge in Montreal?

[Text]

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, an agreement in principle was made between the previous administration and the government of Quebec, but the details have not all been settled yet and the matter is still under discussion.

CROWN ASSETS

SASKATOON, SASK.—DISPOSAL OF LAND AND
HOUSING UNITS AT R.C.A.F. BASE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Industry. It has to do with the advertisement inserted in the press by Crown Assets Disposal Corporation regarding the disposal of 48 acres of land and 162 housing units in the former air force base at Saskatoon. The call for bids, or offers, expires today. I want to ask the minister whether there have been any negotiations with the city of Saskatoon for the disposal of these buildings, particularly in view of the fact that the municipal services for this area are supplied by the city of Saskatoon even though it is not located within the boundaries of that city.

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, in disposing of surplus assets of the crown, Crown Assets Disposal Corporation acts as trustee of the assets for the government and the taxpayers of Canada, and with regard to any disposal is obviously required to get as fair a price as it can.

In pursuit of this aim it will offer the right of first refusal at the fair market price to the government of the province in which the assets are located. If the provincial government has no interest, then the right of first refusal will go to the municipality in which the assets are situated. If the municipality has no interest, then the assets will be offered at public auction.