

Oral Questions

tain was, as I recollect it, in these terms: that the hon. member was seeking a direct answer to the question as to whether there will be consultation between the federal government and the provinces involved. The minister made an answer to that question, and now the hon. member seeks to complain about the quality of the answer in which the minister was referring to past consultations as opposed to future ones. However, in all that I am unable to see it clearly established that there is a charge that the minister, either deliberately or otherwise, is misleading the House. The proposed question of privilege amounts to a complaint as to the quality of the answer. I am sure the hon. member is well aware that this does not constitute a question of privilege.

GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO CONTINUED
SUBSIDIZATION OF DOMESTIC OIL PRICES

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): My question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Will the minister advise the House whether the government intends to continue the subsidization of oil prices after exports of oil to the United States cease and, if so, what method of subsidization will be implemented?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): The actual determination, whether and when exports will drop, of the way in which the subsidy will be financed is, I think, premature at the moment. I think it is obviously a question to be considered, depending upon the appropriate level at which exports are to be set either this coming year or in the following years. I think the hon. gentleman's question is premature in that it precedes the government's announcement of its position.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY

TEXTILES—REQUEST FOR MEASURES TO CURB DUMPING

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, we are going to leave the area of oil to turn to that of textile. All is not going well there either.

I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Can he advise the House whether the prices paid for the textile products which have been imported by Canada from the Far East over the past six months are considerably lower than those paid for Canadian textile products? If so, does the minister consider this as a form of dumping, and can he say whether he will take any steps to protect Canadian textile industry workers?

[English]

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I am not aware of any dumping at present or undervaluation of imports. I am aware of a good deal of distress selling on the part of foreign producers of textiles, seriously affecting the prospects of the Canadian textile industry. For these reasons, I have referred a number of textile products to the Textile and Clothing Board for an urgent and immediate examination. I hope to have a report in the near future.

[Mr. Speaker.]

● (1500)

FINANCE

TAX POSITION OF OIL COMPANIES OBLIGED TO SELL TO
PROVINCIAL CORPORATIONS OR MARKETING BOARDS

Mr. Jim Balfour (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Is it possible that the effect of the ways and means motions Nos. 7 and 7.1 of the current budget will be to require petroleum companies in Canada to pay tax to the federal government in excess of their production revenues in circumstances where such companies are obliged, by provincial law, to sell their production to provincially controlled corporations or marketing boards?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member ought to know that he ought not to ask the minister for interpretation of a statute, even a statute that is not before the House, and particularly one which is obviously going to be debated in the House.

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AGRICULTURE

BEEF—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE CANADA WILL NOT LIFT
IMPORT QUOTA ON UNITED STATES CATTLE

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Because of mounting speculation that the Canadian government will remove import controls on U.S. cattle, thus creating panic within the beef industry, can the minister unequivocally give this House an assurance that such action is not contemplated, in order to avoid havoc within that industry?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, should there be any change in government policy in respect of this matter it will be announced in the usual manner. In the meantime, I can assure the hon. member and members of the House that there is no change in government policy respecting beef import quotas.

BEEF—POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT PURCHASE OF SURPLUS FOR
FOREIGN AID

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In order to maintain a stable market for beef in Canada, if a surplus becomes apparent in certain grades of beef for a short time, would the government consider purchasing that surplus and making it available for foreign aid?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the concern of the government I am sure is the concern of everyone in this House, so we are looking at every aspect to make sure that markets are properly looked after to ensure there will be no waste in this product. I had some consultations concerning beef aid with some countries when I was at the World Food Conference and some of them told me that they simply could not use beef in their food programs. We have already started trying to find what countries can use beef in any