

Oral Questions

AGRICULTURE

TOMATOES—EFFECT OF IMPORTS ON CANADIAN GREENHOUSE TOMATO PRODUCERS

Mr. Robert Daudlin (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Is the minister aware that the imports into the Canadian market of Florida field tomatoes and Cleveland greenhouse tomatoes have so far depressed the price on the Canadian market that Canadian greenhouse tomato producers are being forced to sell their produce, which is only now reaching the height of its season, at a price below the cost of production? If so, what steps is he taking to protect the Canadian greenhouse industry?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we are well aware of the fact that tomatoes from Mexico and the United States have been brought into Canada. There is no substantial increase in the amount of tomatoes which have come here. We think the present situation is temporary because of crop conditions in Mexico and Florida, and we think the market will alleviate itself of this problem.

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AIRPORTS

PICKERING—DATE OF OFFER TO RESIDENTS OF STOUFFVILLE TO PURCHASE HOMES

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works. In view of the minister's statement last week with regard to the future Pickering airport noise disturbance that an offer has been made for those residents in Stouffville who want to leave to regard the government as purchaser of last resort, would the minister indicate when the offer was made, to whom it was extended and in what form? It now appears no one in Stouffville has heard of the offer, including the mayor of that town.

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the indication I gave in the House was, perhaps, imprecise in that the details of the offer have not been worked out, but the government will be prepared, as a purchaser of last resort to offer to purchase houses from citizens who wish to move away by reason of noise levels.

Mr. Stevens: Could the minister be more precise as to exactly when the government will be making this approach to the residents of Stouffville?

Mr. Drury: I think perhaps more in the way of details and more in the way of knowledge as to possible noise levels in the future should be worked out before the offer is communicated. Those who wish to avail themselves of this will want to know against what kind of test they will be operating.

[Mr. Marchand (Langelier).]

MANPOWER

REASON MINOR HOCKEY LEAGUE PLAYERS INSTRUCTED TO OBTAIN SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBERS

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. The Ontario Minor Hockey Association has instructed all its affiliates to instruct their minor league hockey players next year to obtain social insurance numbers. Some of these kids are only seven years of age. I would like to know the minister's rationale behind this situation and whether he will ask them to pay into the Canada Pension Plan, UIC and the others.

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): It would be pretty difficult for a minister to know the rationale. This is the first I have heard of this matter, so I will have to look into it and find out what is happening. I am not sure what they are up to.

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PUBLIC WORKS

DREDGING—POSSIBILITY OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MINISTER AND MR. McNAMARA

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Public Works. I would like to ask him if he took advantage of the recent visit to this city of Mr. McNamara and other members of his band to discuss with them the interesting question of dredging.

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I did not take advantage of the recent visit of Mr. McNamara and his band to Ottawa to discuss the dredging question.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

DREDGING—REQUEST FOR OUTLINE OF SAFEGUARDS BEING CONSIDERED FOR NEW CONTRACTS

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Public Works. On April 22 and, I believe, again on April 29 the minister indicated that he is pursuing the awarding of dredging contracts, but prior to that time he would have to devise some standards in order to protect the public interest. Can the minister advise today whether those standards have been devised and have been submitted to cabinet for approval in order that the nation can know of them prior to entering into any contracts with dredging companies?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I undertook to make an announcement tomorrow, which I intend to do.

● (1450)

DREDGING—REASON MINISTER DID NOT CONSULT RCMP AND SOLICITOR GENERAL ON SAFEGUARDS FOR NEW CONTRACTS

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In view of the importance of the