

Oral Questions

develop not only in western Canada but in eastern Canada. The vast majority of farmers recognize that a change must take place for the over-all good of Canadian agriculture.

We have held very, very intense meetings with many, many provincial representatives in eastern Canada who are concerned about the effect the changes will have on them. Our findings are being put together at the present time, and next week we should have a very firm presentation on the Gilson Report and its over-all effect on agriculture.

FUTURE OF LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre): Madam Speaker, since most of the economic studies previously done by the Minister's department and by the Minister of Transport indicate that the main advantage to a change in the Crow rate is based on an understanding that the livestock industry will expand in Canada—some studies indicate as much as 25 per cent—and since we are now faced with a decline in livestock product prices and we no longer have access to the U.S. market for meat, where are we going to go with this increased production? Where is the advantage in producing goods which have declined in price and which do not have access to a market?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member talks about the beef quota which the United States of America has imposed on Canada. That is true for carcass meat and broken beef, but no other meat is affected at this time and live cattle can still be shipped to the U.S. as we have been freely able to do for many, many years.

When the Hon. Member talks about where the production is going to go, again you do not have to be a great mathematician to know that the world population today is 4.3 billion people, and over the next 17 years it will increase to over six billion. In light of that, we think some of these prices are temporary.

Also, the Hon. Member knows full well that those farmers who have looked after themselves in some kind of a marketing organization are not suffering at this time. The ones who have not looked after themselves through some kind of supply management system are the ones really suffering in the present economic downturn. The others may not be doing as well as they did before, but they are not going bankrupt, and the Hon. Member knows that.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SUGGESTED CANADA-UNITED STATES ECONOMIC TALKS

Mr. Bill Yurko (Edmonton East): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister I am going to direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In 1977 the Prime Minister spoke very effectively to a joint session of the U.S. Congress. Recently the Prime Minister met with business leaders from the United States. Also, the U.S. Secretary of

State Schultz visited Ottawa recently, and meetings four times annually are planned. Shortly the Prime Minister will be going to meet with the leaders of Europe.

Since the Canadian economy is massively interwoven with that of the U.S. in regard to interest rates, foreign investment, trade, tourism, communications and so on, and since the U.S. elections may signal significant changes to U.S. fiscal and economic policy, may I ask the Minister the following question.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Yurko: Is the Prime Minister planning, or does he consider it advisable, to have a meeting with President Reagan in the very near future, on economic direction and recovery, and/or is he perhaps planning to speak to the U.S. Congress on Canadian-U.S. economic irritants and direction?

Mr. Nielsen: Yes or no.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, the Prime Minister and the other leaders of the western industrialized world met to discuss the world economy earlier this year. The Summit in Versailles addressed global economic questions.

With respect to the United States, Madam Speaker, I am pleased that the Hon. Member has highlighted the importance of our relationship with the U.S. and the interrelationship between our two economies. I certainly attach a very high importance to maintaining good relations with the United States. In that respect, the United States Secretary of State visited Canada for very extended discussions, and it is my intention to maintain the continuity of that communication which we began a very short time ago.

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FISHERIES

EUROPEAN ACTION AGAINST SEAL HUNT PRODUCTS

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Given the recent uninformed statements by some members of the European Economic Community in regard to the Canadian seal hunt, would the Minister inform the House today what action both the Government and he personally are taking to defend the all important Canadian seal hunt?

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, as Minister for the region where the seal hunt is a traditional activity I can make the following report to the Hon. Member.

First, I have personally met with Members of Parliament of each country of western Europe to sensitize them about it. I have met personally with the President of the Common Market, Gaston Thorne. I have met with officials both in