

The Turkey Marketing Board has asked for an increase in quotas this year, but they have been turned down by the National Farm Products Marketing Council, which indicates to me that the National Farm Products Marketing Council needs more consumer input.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I only hope that on behalf of the consumers of Canada these two turkeys can get together. We have the Minister of Agriculture, in the House on Friday, telling us there is a surplus on hand of 17 million pounds and that the price increases could not be justified, and now we have the minister of consumer affairs telling us there is actually a shortage of supply. Which minister do we believe: the Minister of Agriculture, who tells us that the producers in this country are not ripping off the consumers, or the minister of consumer affairs who seems to be like a toothless tiger?

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AGRICULTURE

REASON FOR LICENSING GRAIN TERMINALS NOT OPERATING AT FULL CAPACITY

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I would like to revert to the matter raised by the hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek and the hon. member for Moose Jaw and direct to the Minister of Agriculture a question that is of particular interest to farmers across this country.

In view of the fact that the Board of Grain Commissioners has the power of licensing grain terminals on the west coast, would the minister consider asking the Board of Grain Commissioners, which comes under his jurisdiction, to meet with the companies having grain terminals on the west coast and asking them to show reason why they should retain their licences for those elevators when they are not operating them seven days a week at a time when the demand on these terminals is tremendous?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, all I can say to the hon. member is that I will certainly contact the chairman of the Canadian Grain Commission and talk to him about this. It is the first time this has been brought to my attention.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the minister for his interest in this matter, because he has great power at this particular moment.

The second thing I would ask the minister to do is to ask the Board of Grain Commissioners if they will consider giving final export permit licences for barley, based on country elevator standards, so that barley shipments can bypass these terminals and go through the bulk loading facilities on the west coast.

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I will consider the request and talk to the Canadian Grain Commission.

Oral Questions

AIRPORTS

FOURTH RUNWAY AT TORONTO INTERNATIONAL

Mr. Ross Milne (Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Members will remember that on November 8, I rose in this House and received assurance from the minister that he would not alter his decision not to build a fourth runway at Toronto international airport. I share the concern of the many people in Brampton-Bramalea when they read in the local paper last week that the airport manager said that the runway was necessary and that studies were continuing.

Would the minister reiterate his commitment not to proceed with runway expansion, which would cause further disturbance and annoyance to at least 75,000 people, at the Toronto international airport?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I regret the interpretation put upon a statement made by the Toronto airport manager. I think that in fact he wanted to indicate that additional facilities in the Toronto area would be required in the near future, but that was said in connection with the fact that we were doing some technical studies with regard to the question of a fourth runway.

A couple of weeks ago I tried to explain to the House that these studies were being done in order to have information against any argument that we should go ahead with a fourth runway. I have been impressed with the uneasiness this has caused people who have built in the area where the fourth runway would have an effect on noise levels and who built there based upon the commitment of this government not to build such a major runway to their disadvantage. Accordingly, having concluded that I would find it difficult to ease their concern in any other way, I have today directed that the studies with regard to the fourth runway be stopped immediately.

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HEALTH AND WELFARE

MICROWAVE OVENS—HEALTH HAZARDS

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare, on a matter of some importance at this Christmas shopping time of year, and about which I have given the minister notice.

Given the fact that exposure to microwaves is suspected of causing numerous side effects and may, in fact, be a serious health hazard, and since the environmental health directorate of the health protection branch feels there is a definite need for further research on microwaves, can the hon. lady advise the House what steps she has taken to protect Canadians, considering the increasing use of microwave ovens? Are they safe, or not?

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the standards for design, construction