

Oral Questions

ers, mainly dairy producers who expressed their opinion on that matter?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have nothing to add to what I said last week.

* * *

PUBLIC SERVICE**PROPOSED COMMITTEE STUDY OF LAMBERT REPORT ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the hon. member for Nipissing in his capacity as co-chairman of the Joint Committee on Employer-Employee Relations in the Public Service of Canada. Would the chairman undertake to discuss with the committee the proposition that perhaps the committee might profit by studying the Lambert Report, which has just been circulated among members of parliament, with respect to executive compensation in the public service, particularly having regard to its recommendations on other terms of employment?

Mr. J.-J. Blais (Nipissing): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for drawing the report to my attention. I would be pleased to consider his proposal.

* * *

NATIONAL DEFENCE**DATE OF DECISION ON SELECTION OF LONG RANGE PATROL AIRCRAFT**

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister, partially because of his trip abroad, and also because of the fact that the Minister of National Defence is not in the House today. Since August 1 is the deadline of which everyone is aware in terms of the time for a decision the government has to make on the long range patrol aircraft, which is, incidentally, related to many of these questions about patrols off our coast. Has the cabinet made a decision on the LRPA, or is it in a position to make one, before August 1 and while the Prime Minister is away?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I know the Minister of National Defence issued a press release on this matter. If it has not been released, I believe it will be released any moment now. The cabinet did consider the matter, and we did narrow down the options considerably. We explained that we were asking for a further delay because the industrial fall-outs and consequences of the decision have not yet been clearly established. As a matter of fact, until the night before cabinet was meeting on this last week, we were still receiving representations from some of the parties. Therefore, the matter of the LRPA is still in abeyance and will be studied in the weeks and months to come.

Mr. Nowlan: Perhaps we had better read the press release of the Minister of National Defence, but since it

[Mr. Laprise.]

has taken seven years and involved four ministers of national defence to come to a decision, do I understand that there is a further time extension beyond August 1 by which time the government will make a choice between one of the two main contractors, either Lockheed or Boeing? Is it narrowed down to the two?

Mr. Trudeau: I repeat that until the eve of the cabinet meeting last week we were receiving new variations of propositions regarding the industrial fall-out aspect in Canada, and it will take us a little while to consider these.

* * *

AGRICULTURE**LEVY ON POWDERED MILK FOR EXPORT—MINISTER'S POSITION**

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture, and it follows a question I asked on July 4 and a number of subsequent questions regarding the price of powdered skim milk. The minister at that time said that the producers themselves accept the levy system for the products they are exporting. In light of the many letters I know the minister has received since that answer, has the minister changed his mind with regard to the imposition of the additional levy on the producers?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, that is the same question which was asked previously by another hon. member, and I give the same answer to this hon. member, which is that I answered the question last week.

* * *

ENERGY**FUNDY TIDAL POWER PROJECT—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON PROGRESS OF FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Can the minister inform the House as to the status and progress of the federal-provincial committee on the review of Fundy tidal power? Can he indicate if that committee is progressing with its work and if they anticipate they will be able to complete that work within the deadline anticipated when the earlier report was brought down? Is it the intention of the committee to establish a central office somewhere in the Maritime province to move forward with the work they anticipate they will have to do?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, dealing with the last point first, the last report I received from my officials in this regard was that it was not anticipated that at this point a central office would be needed, although that will be very much borne in mind, along with the number of undoubtedly salubrious sites suggested by the hon. member. Regarding the greater detail in the question I will undertake to