

Oral Questions
AGRICULTURE

VIEW OF MINISTER ON WHETHER FOOD PRICES WILL
 CONTINUE TO DECLINE

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my further supplementary question is to the Minister of Agriculture. With the background of today's inflation figures where food prices are lower but other prices continue to soar and having noted the minister's contention that food is cheap in Canada, would the minister indicate whether he believes that recent food price declines will set the pattern for 1976 or does he expect food prices to rise substantially in the latter part of this year.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, to make a forecast that would be even greater than that of the former Chairman of the Food Prices Review Board would entail having a knowledge greater than that of God.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF PLANNING FOR IMPROVED
 SURVEILLANCE, SEARCH AND RESCUE IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE
 EXTENSION OF JURISDICTION TO 200 MILES

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. In view of the minister's responsibility for co-ordinating the efforts of surveillance, search and rescue and in view of the extension of Canada's limits in respect of the 200 mile economic zone which will mean a massive undertaking in order to provide surveillance and search and rescue, would the minister indicate what planning is taking place on an inter-departmental basis for this eventuality and what hardware is being considered as well as any other efforts the departmental committee is taking.

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Well, Mr. Speaker, to some extent this is hypothetical because we do not yet have a 200-mile limit. However, we very definitely are making plans to adequately cover that limit of 200 miles if it is established, and we will increase the amount of equipment for that purpose.

Mr. Marshall: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that at a meeting of the Committee on Fisheries the other day the officials indicated that planning was taking place with regard to the eventuality of the 200-mile limit, would the minister make a statement on motions or ask the House Leader to refer to the committee the whole aspect of the need for capable search and rescue surveillance in Canada so that the matter could be dealt with seriously and so that the planning can take place for the future.

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, I can reaffirm that the planning is taking place. I will be pleased to announce it as definite and final decisions are taken.

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

[Translation]

FISHERIES

BRIGITTE BARDOT'S PROTEST AGAINST SEAL HUNT—
 GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Albert Béchard (Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of State (Fisheries).

In drafting future regulations on seal hunting, does the minister intend to let himself be impressed by the lucubrations of a former movie star seeking to regain lost popularity? Everybody, you included, has recognized that I am referring to Brigitte Bardot.

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is my responsibility to determine what has been lost and what could be regained. On the other hand, I believe I must say that those who protest against this sort of quite legitimate activity on the part of our Canadian fishermen, if they want to be consistent with themselves, should refrain from eating meat, wearing clothes and shoes, and so on.

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HEALTH

INQUIRY AS TO MEASURES TO EXTEND FOOD INSPECTION
 SYSTEM

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Could the minister tell the House whether, following the crime commission investigation on the matter of tainted meat which took place last fall, new steps have been taken to expand the inspection service under the Food and Drugs Act and, if so, could he tell the House what are those steps the government has seen fit to take to protect the health of Canadians?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, but could the hon. member repeat his question, for I did not hear it?

Mr. Allard: Mr. Speaker, I want to put a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I would like to know whether, following the investigation of the Commission of Inquiry on Organized Crime, new steps have been taken respecting inspection under the Food and Drugs Act, whether new inspectors have been appointed to protect the health of Canadians so that the situation of last fall does not recur.

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, I think I have already tabled in the House, several months ago, the answer to that question. It will be found in the House of Commons Hansard.