

TRADE

POSSIBILITY OF AGREEMENT WITH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND ON IMPORTATION OF BEEF

Mr. John Wise (Elgin): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture perhaps I might direct my question to the Prime Minister. Would the Prime Minister confirm or deny reports to the effect that trade agreements between Canada and the Governments of Australia and New Zealand have been reached with reference to the importation of beef from these two countries?

[Translation]

Mr. Marcel Roy (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I take note of the question and I will provide the hon. member with the information.

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[English]

HEALTH

POSSIBILITY OF POISONED MILK IN CHILLIWACK AREA—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Alex Patterson (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, it has been reported that a dairy farmer in the Fraser Valley telephoned a radio station and stated that he had just put poison in the milk. In the absence of the Minister of Agriculture I should like to ask his parliamentary secretary whether the minister has been advised of this report and whether it is being investigated.

Mr. Bob Kaplan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, that report was brought to the attention of the Health Protection Branch. I think I can give the hon. member some reassurance. The department is taking the report seriously although it may be a hoax. All milk shipments in Chilliwack have been stopped. Milk will be tested and approved before any will be released. If this is indeed a hoax or a joke it is a pretty expensive joke for the taxpayers.

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INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Ken Hurlburt (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. In light of the fact that we have a group of very distinguished parliamentarians from Australia in our gallery, and in light of the fact that the Canadian cattlemen have lost more money in the last few weeks than ever in the history of this country, would the Prime Minister ask our guests from down under to find another market for their beef and give us a little time to recover.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Bilingual Air Traffic Control

● (1500)

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

ANTI-INFLATION ACT

TABLING OF REFERENCES RESPECTING COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS WITH CERTAIN SCHOOL BOARDS

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): I should like to table copies of references to the administrator, under the Anti-Inflation Act, with respect to collective agreements concerning the Wentworth County Board of Education, the Prescott and Russell County Roman Catholic Separate School Board, and the Sudbury District Roman Catholic Separate School Board.

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AIR TRANSPORT

STATEMENT ON BILINGUAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, first I should like to table, in both official languages, copies of the order in council appointing the Hon. W. R. Sinclair, of the Court of Appeal in Edmonton, and the Hon. Julien Chouinard, of the Court of Appeal in Quebec City, to a commission to study the safety aspects of bilingual air traffic control in Quebec, and the terms of reference of that commission.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lang: General aviation outside the commercial air-line field is extremely important in Canada, especially because of our space and because of our income levels, which means that we can take advantage of the means of travel which is fastest and covers that great space of ours. This is true of Canadians who use English, and it is equally true for Canadians who are much more at home or even only at home in the French language, particularly in that great area which is comprised of the northern parts of the province of Quebec. This led us some time ago to look at the question of air traffic control in that area in both languages, and we took some steps in that direction.

I think it is important for me to draw to the attention of the House the fact that what we have done so far is simply extend bilingual air traffic control in visual flight operations to five airports in the province of Quebec and to indicate that within the near future that will be extended to two additional airports in that province. It is important to note that, outside certain radio services in that language, that it is all that has been done, and that all of this has been done now without any argument or disagreement on the part of the air controllers or pilots in Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lang: The key consideration in this policy as it has been developed to this point, and as we look forward to the future, is that the current, strict safety standards and practices in aircraft operations in Canada have not, and will not, be lowered or jeopardized. We have indicated some plans which are subject to greater controversy. They