

[Translation]

BARLEY—DIFFERENCE IN PRICE BETWEEN WESTERN AND EASTERN CANADA

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Agriculture. Is he aware that barley is being sold to Western mills and farmers at 75 cents a bushel, and that the very same barley, after having been delivered to the St. Lawrence ports, costs between \$1.54 and \$1.57 a bushel?

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[English]

FINANCE

INCREASE IN CHARTERED BANK SERVICE CHARGES—EARLY INTRODUCTION OF AMENDMENTS TO COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT

Mr. Robert P. Kaplan (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Now that the banks recognize that the Combines Investigation Act amendments to be introduced by the minister will probably terminate their right to unrestricted pricing collusion, and since they are now blatantly exploiting their advantage, will the minister expedite the introduction of this legislation?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the introduction of the legislation is not dependent upon what the banks recognize or do not recognize. We are working on it as hard as we can and will introduce it as soon as we can.

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AGRICULTURE

APPLES—PROBLEMS CREATED BY IMPORTS

Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact there is evidence that the government is giving assistance to apple growers in British Columbia, will he also give consideration to the problem of importations that are affecting the whole industry?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of investigations made with respect to imports of certain apple products, particularly apple concentrate. The growers are aware of the findings of most of those investigations.

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FINANCE

INCREASE IN CHARTERED BANK SERVICE CHARGES—REQUEST FOR REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance and it is partly supplementary to the previous question addressed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate

Inquiries of the Ministry

Affairs. On a number of occasions the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has been asked about tackling the banks on the question of their increased charges for cheque servicing and the minister has indicated his impotency under the combines legislation. Last week I asked the minister whether he would consider referring this issue to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs so that we could deal with it in an effective way by calling the presidents of the banks before the committee. Has the minister considered this request, and is he prepared to ask the House to make a reference?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker, not at this time.

Mr. Saltsman: Since the minister is not prepared to ask the House for a reference, will he initiate an inquiry into the matter and report to the House?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, I do not think it requires an inquiry; the facts are fairly plain.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would remind hon. members that we are now running short of time. We will definitely run short of time unless we limit supplementaries.

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AGRICULTURE

SUGGESTED USE OF DISTINCTIVE CANADIAN SYMBOL ON CANADIAN PRODUCTS

Mr. W. M. Howe (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs supplementary to one which was directed to the Minister of Agriculture in connection with the importation of agricultural products into Canada and the confusion consumers encounter in identifying Canadian products when they want to buy them. In determining the regulations under the new packaging and labelling legislation, would the minister consider devising a truly Canadian symbol which will indicate that products are grown and packed in Canada?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): The confusion to which the hon. member refers has been a subject of great concern to my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, and myself as well as to our officials. We have been endeavouring to eliminate it under existing legislation as far as possible, but I will certainly consider the hon. member's suggestion or representation very carefully because I am aware of the confusion that exists.

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POWER

BAY OF FUNDY TIDES—REPORT ON DISCUSSION WITH NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA POWER COMMISSION OFFICIALS

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Can the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources inform us as to