

insurance for the time being. The leader of the New Democratic Party would certainly be the first to complain about such a move.

[English]

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, the minister knows full well that I am not suggesting he transfer funds from one area to another. The point I am making is that public sector spending, like unemployment insurance pay-outs, in some ways is money down the drain, economically. It produces no jobs, but investment does produce jobs. If I understand the minister's argument correctly, he is saying that the government is still waiting to see the effects of his mini-budget in the fall and those of the earlier budget last year.

● (1427)

Considering that almost every economic forecasting group, including most recently the Conference Board, have said that unemployment will increase this year and the growth rate is going down, will he make a commitment, now, to reduce taxes and have some public sector investment in job-creation projects before the next election is called?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I do not know when I will present a budget. I am now considering all proposals. Of course, projections made by the Conference Board went down from 5 to 4.5 and I am taking note of it. I only want to point out to the hon. member that it is nevertheless an increase in the level of economic growth which was at 2.5 last year. Even the Conference Board has now established that the economic growth will be at least 4.5 and if we can further stimulate the economy we will do so when we introduce a budget.

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AGRICULTURE

INQUIRY WHETHER DAIRY POLICY WILL BE ANNOUNCED APRIL 1

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture, I should like to direct my question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture.

Considering that the House will adjourn today and that surely we will not be sitting before March 31 since we are not expected back until April 3, and considering that the government's dairy policy is usually announced by March 31 at the latest, can the Minister of Agriculture tell the House if the government's dairy policy will be made public during the recess before the beginning of the year which starts on April 1?

Mr. Yves Caron (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the dairy policy will be announced

Oral Questions

as soon as possible and will be known to the people and the farmers in the next few days.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): I should like to put a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Considering the importance of that industry in Canada and the rather large quantities of imported cheese in past years when the minister assured us that imports would not exceed 50 million pounds, is the minister in a position to tell us whether our dairy industry has improved to the extent that an appreciable reduction of imports can be expected to compensate for reduced consumption anticipated in the months to come?

Mr. Caron: Mr. Speaker, the dairy policy as a whole is now under review. Several suggestions have been made by members on both sides to allow that dairy policy to maintain normal production. Many representations have been made and, as will be seen in the forthcoming announcement, we are waiting for all the suggestions made with respect to the 1978-79 dairy policy.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, can the parliamentary secretary tell the House whether there have been consultations with the producers' offices, either in Quebec or in the other provinces, with a view to reaching an agreement paving the way for announcing a dairy policy that would be satisfactory to the producers of both manufacturing and whole milk?

Mr. Caron: Mr. Speaker, with regard to consultations with the provincial federations, the hon. member for Bellechasse surely knows that the dairy policy is formulated jointly by the management committee and the Canadian Dairy Commission on the basis of recommendations by the provincial federations. I can assure the hon. member that the dairy policy for 1978-79 will be at least as good if not better than the one we had this year.

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[English]

ARTS, LETTERS AND SCIENCES

HONORARY DEGREES AWARDED TO MEMBERS OF ROYAL FAMILY

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. I make no apology for asking the question, because we will be adjourning until April 3 which will be too late for a decision to be made that is of interest to universities across Canada. I would ask the minister first whether the decision was made by cabinet that no honorary degrees should be given to any member of the Royal Family without the consent of the Prime Minister of Canada?