

AGRICULTURE

POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING PROGRAM TO PROVIDE MILK FOR STUDENTS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that the powdered milk surplus is building up by some 10 per cent in the month of April, and in view of the fact that there is a well known nutritional deficiency among many young people in this country, may I ask the minister whether or not he is planning to introduce in this country ways and means to finance in the schools of Canada a school milk program for all students?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): No, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of National Health and Welfare has said that he would consider that program and discuss it with the provinces. It is under provincial jurisdiction. The province of Nova Scotia has such a program which allows students to buy milk at five cents for eight ounces, and it is a very good program.

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FINANCE

POSSIBILITY OF FINANCING PROGRAM TO PROVIDE MILK FOR STUDENTS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Finance. I should like to ask the minister whether or not he on behalf of the federal government can make a financial commitment to finance a school milk program for the students in this country?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, we have set out the fiscal framework for the current fiscal year and I do not see any prospect of changing that.

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GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

LOCKHEED CONTRACT—ALLEGED LACK OF DISCUSSION OF FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that no small businessman would think of entering into a business deal involving financing unless the details of that financing were set out on paper and understood well by both sides, would the Prime Minister outline to the House how his government could possibly discuss for many months a deal involving \$1 billion with \$300 million of financing without one single word about that financing being set forth on paper?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Well, Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of National Defence and other ministers have repeatedly said, it was our understanding, as a result of verbal agreement, that the bridge financing would be furnished and supplied by the Lockheed Company. The hon. gentleman talks about small business. In

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small and big business alike, there sometimes are such things as gentleman's and verbal agreements.

Mr. Hees: Well, Mr. Speaker, can the right hon. gentleman think of any business of any size about which he knows or about which he has heard which has entered into any kind of business deal of any size without getting the details of the financing on paper, because without the financing no business deal that requires financing can possibly go forward. Is this not the height of irresponsibility on the part of his government?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I point out to the hon. gentleman that we are not talking about the contract itself at this point. The contract was signed later and put under escrow in circumstances of which the House is aware. At this time we are talking about a preliminary agreement. Very often agreements are entered into on the force of a gentleman's word and he would know more about that if he were a gentleman.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

RUSTING OF FORD MOTOR VEHICLES—POSSIBLE INTERVENTION BY MINISTER AND INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In so far as further class actions are being taken on behalf of Ford owners who have been affected by a very serious rust problem, and in so far as thousands of Ford owners have registered complaints both with the government and the Ford Motor Company, may I ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs on behalf of the consumers whether he has intervened with the Ford Motor Company in this regard relating to previous complaints and has he anything further, on their behalf, to report to the House this afternoon.

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Well, Mr. Speaker, there have been several class actions taken against Ford, under provincial legislation not under federal legislation, for alleged rusting of their automobiles. I have discussed the matter with the Ford Motor Company of Canada and with the Automobile Protection Association to the extent that I think there are grounds sufficient for mediating their dispute.

Mr. Grafftey: Mr. Speaker, in view of what has now become an extremely serious problem, especially in the Canadian climate, is the minister considering legislation which would oblige the automobile companies to rust-proof parts before final assembly?

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, we are investigating this whole area of whether the problems related to rust are due to climatic conditions or the type of chemical used on the roads in the winter time or whether they are peculiar to a particular automobile or certain design of automobile. When we have completed that study I will announce what the government's intention would be in this regard.