

*Oral Questions*

government to act quickly on strict gun control laws to protect Canadians against violence with guns.

When will the minister take steps to amend Bill C-80 to include the improvements recommended in the petitions presented today, and also the improvements recommended by the special committee which reported on February 15? When will this be done?

**Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question. I know he has been very actively involved in this issue.

When I visited the students at Ecole Polytechnique last spring, I had the opportunity to discuss with them their proposals and to receive symbolically the petitions which were delivered to Ottawa today.

I have had, as he knows, the benefit of the advice of the special committee. In the week of March 11, my special national advisory council on firearms met and also considered the committee's report.

I am hoping to table before the House, very quickly, my response to the committee's recommendations. They are excellent recommendations. Some of them have suggested things that I think need to be dealt with and thought out in a little bit more detail.

I am anxious to get on with Bill C-80. I am not sure whether we will have a chance to begin second reading before we rise. If we do not, I will table before the House my response to the committee report, and ask my department to redraft the bill to be tabled in an amended form, and therefore to permit quicker passage when we come back.

At the very soonest moment, I want to advise the members of the House exactly what I propose to bring forward as a new and improved bill. I thank the hon. member for his participation in the process which is going to give us better gun control.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce):** Mr. Speaker, in the petitions tabled today, over 500,000 Canadians asked the government to designate semi-automatic paramilitary rifles as restricted weapons. Is the government ready to act upon this recommendation or not?

**Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes. We have already studied this recommendation, but what is missing is a set of criteria to identify military and paramilitary rifles. I set up my own advisory board, and its first task will be to make a list of the characteristics by which these can be identified. We already have the power to implement such recommendations and I hope to be able to do so.

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[*English*]

**TRADE**

**Mrs. Louise Feltham (Wild Rose):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of State for Grains and Oilseeds.

As recently reported by the Canada West Foundation, the Canada-U.S. trade agreement is working, and working well. The U.S., which imports about one million tonnes of vegetable oil and 400,000 tonnes of meal each year, represents a potentially large market for Canadian canola producers.

Can the minister advise the House what the government is doing to provide the Canadian producers with increased access to this U.S. market?

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

**Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Grains and Oilseeds)):** Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that the Liberals hold so little regard for a well regarded research institution located in western Canada. They might be interested in knowing that the research institute located in Calgary found that Canada increased its high-tech imports to the United States considerably over the last two years, while imports remained flat.

With regard specifically to the member's question, the opposition might also be interested in knowing that as a result of the free trade agreement, at the beginning of next year Canadian canola, a very high quality food that is associated with healthy living standards, will be going into the United States tariff free. This has the potential to not only increase our exports to the United States, but it should make us more competitive to the tune of about \$25 to \$30 a tonne, which is good news for farmers in these difficult times.