

Britain is at Expo and then incidentally chatting with her, of going to London to meet with the Prime Minister of Britain now?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the question of agricultural trade is, of course, a matter which the Government will consider along with other Commonwealth countries as this process evolves.

The Prime Minister of Canada has already phoned Prime Minister Kaunda, when there was a threat that Prime Minister Kaunda might be thinking of precipitously leaving the Commonwealth. He has already phoned Prime Minister Hawke of Australia. He is seeking contact as quickly as possible with Prime Minister Gandhi. We want to be sure that the co-operation and partnership which worked so effectively at Nassau is able to be mobilized to work effectively for the August meeting. That is the urgent purpose of the Prime Minister of Canada and he has already embarked upon it.

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LABOUR RELATIONS

PACKING PLANT DISPUTE—TELEPHONE CALL TO MEAT INSPECTORS

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. On whose authority did his Parliamentary Secretary make threatening phone calls, even at 1 a.m., to federal meat inspectors regarding the dispute at the Peter Pocklington plant in Red Deer, Alberta?

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knew when she posed the question, this was not done in the capacity of Parliamentary Secretary to the Solicitor General.

REQUEST FOR RESIGNATION OF PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): There is currently an RCMP investigation into the possibility of intimidation under Section 381 of the Criminal Code. Would the Solicitor General agree that the immediate resignation of his Parliamentary Secretary should be required until this issue has been resolved?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Solicitor General of Canada): No, Mr. Speaker.

Oral Questions

AGRICULTURE

PRICE OF WHEAT

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to either the Minister of State for External Affairs or the Minister of Agriculture, whichever is responsible for international farm pricing policy. We are now members of the Group of Seven under which American farmers will get approximately \$6 Canadian, Europeans will get about \$8 Canadian, and the Japanese will get more than \$20 Canadian for a bushel of wheat. There are relative prices for other grain commodities. At the same time we are getting about \$3 Canadian for a bushel of wheat.

What point is the Government trying to make with this domestic farm pricing policy? Is it trying to show that we are underdeveloped in relation to the other G-7 countries?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): The obvious answer to that question, Mr. Speaker, is a very definite no. The Hon. Member should realize that we are fully aware of the very difficult situation which exists in Canadian agriculture today. He will know we have taken a number of initiatives, the latest being as of April 30. At the moment we continue to monitor the situation which remains serious. In fact it is even deteriorating. We are looking at a number of options the Government might choose.

• (1430)

CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, since the Minister of Agriculture recently met with the Secretary of Agriculture and decided that all agricultural products would be on the table in the free trade discussions, does that mean Canada will gradually shift to farm gate prices of \$6 per bushel Canadian to be equivalent to the Americans, or are they going to be coming down to the \$3 we have to put up with?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member wants to be accurate and honest with the farm community, he will know we do not have the option of maintaining the status quo. He will know that 50 per cent of Canadian farm income is from export sales. He will know that if we exclude the sale of grain and oilseeds, two-thirds of Canadian farm exports flow to the U.S. He will know we cannot maintain a strong and viable agricultural industry with a market of 24 million Canadians alone. He will know it is of vital importance that we have guaranteed access to the U.S. market.