

Oral Questions

which varies from one region to the other. That is what we want to know.

REQUEST THAT ADVERTISEMENT BE PUBLISHED IN WESTERN
CANADA

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Madam Speaker, when will the Minister do the honourable thing and make a clear-cut statement which can be decipherable in both languages? Is the Minister, in consultation with the Minister of Agriculture who sponsored this ad, prepared to run the same ad in western Canadian Provinces as he ran in the Province of Quebec?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I am quite eager to make that clear statement now. The clear statement now is that there is room for development of both the livestock industry in the East and the livestock industry in the West. My hon. friend, who was the former minister of transport, knows these things. The main reasons for that are geography and cost of transportation.

For example, there is plenty of room for the export of pork from Quebec and Ontario into the eastern United States, as takes place now, because it costs \$2.50 to ship a hundred-weight of pork from Montreal to New York, while it costs \$10.50 to ship it from Calgary to New York, simply for geographical reasons and cost of transportation. In the same way there is room in the western United States for export of beef, for example, from the western part of Canada. The two can be very well and easily accommodated.

Mr. Mazankowski: The Minister persistently refuses to answer my question. He is simply engaging in doubletalk, which is adding to the confusion, the anxiety, and mistrust in western Canada.

PUBLICATION OF ADVERTISEMENT

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Madam Speaker, I repeat my question. Is the Minister prepared to run the same ad in western Canada as he and the Minister of Agriculture ran in the Province of Quebec? Yes or no?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, when I was in the West very recently I had with me a letter which the Minister of Agriculture and myself wrote to grain producers and to the livestock people of Quebec.

Mr. Mazankowski: Are you going to run the ad?

Mr. Pepin: We made that letter extensively known everywhere we went.

Mr. Mazankowski: Run the ad.

Mr. Pepin: It is available to anybody who wants it. There is no shame at all on our part. Those two approaches are easily reconcilable. I will spend some time with my hon. friend, if he

has some, to demonstrate that. That will be a very easy job, the easiest I have had in a long time.

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• (1430)

[Translation]

MACDONALD ROYAL COMMISSION

REMUNERATION OF CERTAIN COMMISSIONERS

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. Yesterday, he announced or rather confirmed that Donald Macdonald, lawyer Michel Robert and a secretary general would be receiving \$800, \$750 and \$700 per day, respectively. In my opinion, the Prime Minister is not responsible for the levels of remuneration paid in connection with this Commission. Since he has been asking Canadians to tighten their belts for a couple of years, and the Government has forced pensioners, senior citizens and children to tighten them even more, I ask the Right Hon. Prime Minister, in the name of justice, whether today, considering public opinion, which he already knows, he will be willing to recommend immediately a reduction in these stipends out of fairness to those who are less well-off?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member always sets himself up as the defender of those who complain about there being a double standard. I suggest, for instance, that he ask his leader or former leader how much the Progressive Conservative Government was paying the Member for Vancouver Centre when she was doing a study for the Progressive Conservative Government. Perhaps he could ask the Member for Saskatoon West what his fees were when he was a lawyer. He would then have some inkling of the levels of remuneration that are common in the private sector and which must be considered if we want to recruit competent people to serve the public.

Mr. La Salle: Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary. Not long ago, in the course of a televised speech, the Prime Minister asked Canadians for their trust and co-operation. Today, he has answered my question with a question. Yesterday, I received a telephone call about these exorbitant fees which to Canadians are an absolute disgrace. Could the Prime Minister inform the House how much Mr. Robert has received in fees from the Federal Government during the last three years?

Considering all those Canadians who are worried about the situation and who think such fees are entirely unfair and in fact an obscenity, I ask the Prime Minister again, if he wants our trust and wants to keep what credibility he has left, to bring things back to more acceptable proportions by immediately restraining and blocking fee levels that are now entirely