

Oral Questions

we believe that Canada has to be represented in the international community and be in a position to enter into agreements, and carry them out, as our forefathers intended.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Windsor West. Keeping in mind the time I would appreciate a short question.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister for International Trade. Is the Minister then not saying that at the present time provincial and local governments are acting in areas currently under federal jurisdiction, and that the federal Government is therefore going to use the authority of this trade deal to take away that jurisdiction from them? Is that not what he is saying?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. McDermid: Be gentle with Herb.

Mr. Crosbie: —I am going to be gentle, and I am going to be calm.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Axworthy: Why don't you be smart for a change?

Mr. Crosbie: I will be reserved, polite, cool.

The Bill introduced yesterday takes no authority away from the provinces or municipalities of Canada. It does not add to the authority of the Government of Canada. It exercises the jurisdiction that we were given in 1867, in our opinion. Anyone with a different opinion can go to the Canadian judiciary and they will ultimately decide. I am satisfied that they will decide in our favour.

Mr. Speaker: A single question by the Hon. Member for Prince Albert.

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AGRICULTURE

INTERNATIONAL GRAIN SUBSIDIES

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Grains and Oilseeds. Chancellor Kohl puts Canada and the United States in the same basket in relation to subsidies in the grain trade. Will the Minister explain the difference between our position and that of the United States? Are we serious about reducing the subsidies, or is Chancellor Kohl correct?

Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of State (Grains and Oilseeds)): Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure what the Hon.

Member is getting at. Chancellor Kohl is a fine one to talk about subsidies.

What the Hon. Member should know is that Canadian farmers are receiving about \$65 or \$70 per tonne for barley presently while European farmers are receiving approximately four times that amount. If one looks at subsidies then, obviously the Europeans in our opinion are way more guilty as far as subsidies are concerned.

Having said that, in order to protect our farmers the Government, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, has provided some financial support to get them through a difficult time. At the same time the Prime Minister is doing everything he can to pursue a solution internationally so that we can see Mr. Kohl back away from some of the ridiculous subsidies that are being provided to European farmers, which are one of the main reasons causing problems in international trade.

Mr. Speaker: A single question by the Hon. Member for Hamilton East.

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HEALTH

AIDS DISEASE—RELEASE OF EXPERIMENTAL DRUGS

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It concerns the number one health concern of Canadians—AIDS.

On October 6, 1986, the Minister pledged that he would do everything possible to release experimental drugs that might help fight the AIDS virus. Since that time his Department has released tens of thousands of drugs on an emergency basis. Yet during that time there has been only one drug related to the treatment of AIDS that has been released.

Can he explain to the House why on October 6, 1986, he said he was going to work quickly? Why, in reality, is his Department blocking the release of drugs to prolong potentially the lives of AIDS victims?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the Department and I are doing everything we can to release drugs, both on an emergency basis and to get notices of compliance done.

If one takes a look at the various drugs involved, whether we look at Pentamidine, AZT, or others, the Hon. Member should know very fully and completely that, for instance, with Pentamidine there was an explanation given as recently as this morning by the Director of the federal Centre for AIDS in respect to the clinical trials in Vancouver and Montreal, and also the ethical question that has been raised in Toronto.