

the sale would represent the entire Syrian wheat market for one year, I should like to ask the Minister whether he received a commitment from the United States and, if not, what he plans to do about it.

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I did not raise it in the context of a specific deal but in the context of the broader issue which has arisen as a result of the actions taken by the Americans and by members of the European Community. It was in that context that we raised it at the broad meetings as well as in individual meetings with Ministers.

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## ENERGY

### EFFECT OF LOWER OIL PRICES ON SMALL COMPANIES

**Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. With lower interest rates and falling commodity prices, there is a real risk that two-thirds of our smaller oil companies could be gobbled up by stronger multinational companies which control the other third. Does the Minister share this concern, and will our target of 50 per cent Canadian ownership be in jeopardy?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, yes, I have indicated before that we share the concern noted by the Hon. Member. We have increased our levels of Canadianization in the oil and gas industry. We have not moved away from our target. Our policies on acquisitions do not allow the acquisition of Canadian companies unless they are in financial distress. I am encouraged by the fact that smaller Canadian companies are going through merger processes and amalgamations themselves to build a stronger base from which to work in the future.

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● (1440)

## ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

### PROSECUTION OF JOURNALIST FOR AIRPORT ACTIVITIES

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. Does the Minister feel that it is in the public interest for Bertrand de la Grange, a journalist, to be prosecuted for showing the inadequacy of the security systems at the airports at Mirabel and Dorval? Doesn't the Minister think that Mr. de la Grange should be given the Order of Canada for finally getting the Minister of Transport to get serious about security?

## Oral Questions

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, the allegation is that the person in question violated the law. For whatever reason hardly matters, that would only go to the matter of sentencing. Having allegedly violated the law, surely some action should be taken.

### REQUEST FOR STAY OF PROSECUTION

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** May I draw the Minister's attention, Mr. Speaker, to Section 508 of the Criminal Code which gives him the authority to stay prosecutions in proper cases. Let me ask the Minister of Justice whether he won't exercise the power he has to stay the prosecution, especially bearing in mind that this investigation was started by the RCMP and turned over afterwards to local police.

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman has some quite unusual suggestions today. I will consider the Order of Canada recommendation first.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

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## TRADE

### POTENTIAL UNITED STATES WHEAT SALE TO SYRIA

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In his response to the Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville, the Minister of Finance mentioned that the Government had not specifically raised the potential U.S. wheat sale to Syria. I ask again what is the Government going to do to protect the traditional Canadian market for Canadian wheat going to Syria?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I know the matter was raised, but I will be happy to raise it with all of the precision that is required and report to my hon. friend as soon as I can.

### CANADIAN POSITION

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, there seems to be confusion between the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister as to whether the issue was raised with regard to the specific deal. The American program was instigated to regain traditional American markets—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. This is a preamble. Just a question.

**Mr. Murphy:** What is the Canadian Government going to do when the Americans are not regaining their traditional markets but are taking our traditional markets?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I thought that the Minister of Finance made clear he