

Oral Questions

Mr. Broadbent: We want to know what the Cabinet did with it when it got it.

Mr. Nielsen:—by suggesting that he should be the recipient of correspondence from cabinet Ministers to whomever they write. That is surely patently ridiculous.

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CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

REQUEST FOR DEBATE AND VOTE BEFORE SUMMER RECESS

Mr. Bob Hicks (Scarborough East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. It regards the timing of an open debate and free vote on capital punishment. Would it seem reasonable to the Minister, in light of the promises made by the Government, to hold this debate and free vote prior to the forthcoming summer recess?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I think it has been made clear on a number of occasions, and made clear again by the Prime Minister recently, in fact on his very successful tour to western Canada—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): Have you seen the polls?

Mr. Crosbie: He still found it very difficult to find a live—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the Hon. Minister please conclude?

Mr. Crosbie: As the Prime Minister said on that very successful trip to western Canada, before the end of this session of Parliament is reached adequate time will be provided for a full debate and a vote on the issue of capital punishment. I cannot tell the Hon. Member whether or not it will be during this year. That is a matter for the Prime Minister to decide. He will doubtless consult me and the rest of the Cabinet when he comes back from his successful trip to western Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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AGRICULTURE

IMPACT ON CANADIAN FARMERS OF PROPOSED UNITED STATES LEGISLATION

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board, I will direct my question to the Deputy Prime Minister. A recent study by Chase Econometrics states that the U.S. farm bill will cut net Canadian farm incomes by 20 per cent from 1984 levels. It will have a

disastrous effect on western grain producers. What action is the Government planning to take to protect our farmers from the impact of this United States farm bill which, at the same time, is increasing incomes for American farmers?

[Translation]

Mr. Pierre Blais (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to inform my hon. colleague that in the agricultural sector alone, our Government has taken more action in eighteen months than his Government took in the twenty years it was in power.

Regarding his concerns about the *U.S. Farm Bill*, I can inform the Hon. Member that the initial prices will be announced at the end of March or early April. The Minister, Mr. Mayer, is now in Japan to negotiate other contracts.

Perhaps I may remind my hon. friend of the two latest sales to the USSR and Brazil, which were advantageous for all Canadian farmers. This is a real Government that looks after its business.

[English]

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO UNITED STATES PRESIDENT

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. In the Prime Minister's meeting with President Reagan this weekend is he willing to try to get a commitment that the \$1.5 billion grain export subsidy program will not be used against Canada's traditional grain customers?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this Government has demonstrated on a number of fronts in the agricultural field, and in others, that, despite the fact that the actions of the Government of which the Hon. Member was a supporter led the Americans to believe that they could roll over Canadian interests, whether it was with respect to the sovereignty of Canada or the interests of Canadian farmers, it has taken a decidedly different approach. The Prime Minister will speak for the interests of Canada in the summit with the President, as he has in the past.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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GRAIN

DELIVERY DIFFICULTIES OF WESTERN FARMERS

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. The Minister will know that in many places in western Canada farmers are unable to deliver their grain because of congestion in their elevators. This is congestion caused by the inability of the railways to supply enough cars for them to ship their grain.