

Oral Questions

should be attending those committee hearings there have been only two today in Edmonton, and indeed the attendance of Liberal Members has been rather atrocious throughout these hearings. In view of that, I question the sincerity of the Prime Minister and the Government—

Madam Speaker: Order. At the present time I am questioning whether that question is in order in the House since the Hon. Member is seeking information about committee meetings. As he knows, those questions should not be asked in the House of Commons.

Mr. Nielsen: Not at all, Madam Speaker. If my question had been heard in its entirety it would be apparent that I was not seeking information about committee hearings. The question I am—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. It simply was not apparent after several sentences. I would urge the Hon. Member to go right to the heart of the question and then I would know if it is in order.

Mr. Nielsen: I am sure *Hansard* will show in both interventions of the Chair that I was on the word "question".

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nielsen: My question to the Prime Minister—if those jackals over there will simply calm down—is if he is serious about Liberal attendance at the meetings, will he ensure through his responsible Minister, the Minister of Justice, that Liberal Members of the Commons attend those committee meetings so as to enable the committee to do its work?

Madam Speaker: Order. That question is obviously out of order.

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[*Translation*]

THE ECONOMY

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND REPORT

Mr. Jean-Guy Dubois (Lotbinière): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance.

Yesterday in the House, the Leader of the Opposition referred to the report of the International Monetary Fund with respect to the economic situation in Canada. Madam Speaker, I do not know whether the Leader of the Opposition actually read the report. In any case, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance whether, as the Leader of the Opposition said yesterday, there was a reference to the situation in Canada and whether in referring to this country's deficit, there was not also a reference to Canada's economic recovery?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I thought the Hon. Leader of the Opposition went away last week to do his homework on the economic situation. I am

sorry to say that the Leader of the Opposition either failed to do his homework or he is really a very poor student.

He referred to a report of the International Monetary Fund that was published Sunday, and he made a number of statements regarding Canada's deficit. If the Hon. Member had bothered to read the report, he would have seen that the document does not indicate anywhere that Canada has the largest deficit of the seven major industrialized countries, and furthermore, the report does not provide any classification or ranking of countries according to the relation of their deficit to the Gross National Product. On the contrary, the report says more specifically, on page 39, that Canada—

Madam Speaker: Order, please! We are trying very hard to keep questions short, and the same should apply to answers.

Mr. Lalonde: Madam Speaker, it is clear the Leader of the Opposition misled the House yesterday on the subject we are discussing. The report clearly indicates that Canada, and I shall quote in English:

[*English*]

—have gone further in re-establishing conditions for sustainable growth and have consequently provided their economies with greater scope for expansion—

[*Translation*]

Compared to countries like France, Italy and a large number of smaller industrialized countries.

* * *

● (1450)

[*English*]

INDUSTRY

WHITE FARM EQUIPMENT LTD.—OFFER BY UNITED STATES COMPANY

Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot): Madam Speaker, the reason the Liberals are so happy is they found out we were just better than Italy.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: Order, please. This is Question Period.

Mr. Malone: You don't need to correct me, Madam Speaker; I am not NDP.

I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Yesterday the Hon. Member for Kindersley-Lloydminster asked:

Has he or his Government, either officially or unofficially, directed or placed an objection to the receiver's selling of White Canada interests to White U.S.A.—

—to an offer from a United States company.

The Minister answered:

—we do not favour that particular proposal—