

Oral Questions

CROWN CORPORATIONS

SEQUEL TO PRIVATIZATION OF DE HAVILLAND

Mr. Bob Horner (Mississauga North): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. Despite demands by the Opposition that the de Havilland aircraft company remain a Crown corporation, the Government sold it to Boeing Corporation last December. Can the Minister tell us if there have been mass lay-offs at de Havilland as the Opposition predicted and, I believe, hoped for?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the short answer to that question is no. Rather than mass lay-offs, there have been mass sales and an increase in the number of jobs as a result of the announcement made a couple of weeks ago regarding de Havilland building components for the Super-747. That will create some 250 jobs.

Just in the last couple of days we had the announced sales and options for some 46 Dash-8s to Canadian airlines—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mazankowski: —the largest being a sale to Air Ontario. That should silence the critics opposite once and for all.

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AGRICULTURE

PRICE OF DOMESTIC WHEAT—COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. In a rare spirit of unanimity, the Special Committee on the Pricing of Domestic Wheat tabled its report at 11 o'clock this morning. Would the Minister tell us whether or not he agrees with our principal recommendation that the price of domestic wheat be raised from \$7 a bushel to \$10 a bushel beginning August 1?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question and since the committee, of course, was the creation of this House, I am sure all Hon. Members of the House would want to join with me in extending our congratulations to that Standing Committee under the chairmanship of the Hon. Member for Crowfoot. As the Hon. Member indicates, the report was just tabled this morning. We took that undertaking to establish the committee very seriously, and we will be giving very careful consideration to the recommendations of the committee report tabled earlier today.

DEFICIENCY PAYMENT RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, keeping in mind that farmers are in their worst crisis since the 1930s, would the Minister tell us whether or not he would also consider the recommendation for a deficiency payment which was made by the committee this morning? And can he tell us when that decision will be made? The farmers want to know.

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the official record to date would indicate that we have taken some 235 initiatives in providing benefit to the agricultural industry of over \$5 billion.

Mr. Nystrom: A deficiency payment, John?

Mr. Wise: In keeping with the support the Government has provided to the agricultural industry, at the last meeting at which the Prime Minister met the farm leaders across the country he indicated that, indeed, it was a very serious problem, that farmers were facing their most serious financial crisis in 50 years, and that the Government was prepared to do more.

Mr. Nystrom: Deficiency payment?

Mr. Wise: The Hon. Member points to two issues, first, a deficiency payment and the other, of course, unless he has forgotten, additional stabilization payments. I must say that those are two options which, indeed—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Minister is being long.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: This is very important.

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THE ADMINISTRATION

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. Could he tell us whether he is aware of an article in the *Toronto Sun* today which reports:

Frank Stronach, chairman and co-founder of Magna International Corp., confirmed yesterday "we are committed" to the loan arranged by Anton Czapka, co-founder of the auto parts company?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have not yet read the *Sun* this morning.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will allow the supplementary question but I must remind the Hon. Member that on these matters there is a judicial inquiry which has certain customs surrounding it.