

Why does the Government not admit that it has been snookered by the Americans in this deal and that it has tied its own hands with this agreement, while leaving the Americans to do exactly what they want under their own laws to attack our exports?

**Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, first, there is absolutely no truth in the preamble of the hon. gentleman's question. Second, we have in no way tied our hands in objecting to what we believe is an unfair and unwarranted attack on this industry, or any industry for that matter.

If we do not receive from the United States a satisfactory answer to our diplomatic note, which was very strongly worded, I believe we have the responsibility to go to the GATT panel and request one, because we feel that it is a very unfair and unwarranted attack on the fishing industry.

We will not give up on the fishing industry at all. As a matter of fact, the free trade agreement is very good for the fishing industry and they know it.

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## AGRICULTURE

### SPECIAL CANADIAN GRAINS PROGRAM—COVERAGE OF IRRIGATION FARMERS

**Mr. Bill Gottselig (Moose Jaw):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture my question is directed to the Parliamentary Secretary.

Last year's Special Canadian Grains Program excluded over 80 per cent of the irrigated acreage in Saskatchewan from receiving supplementary benefits because these acres were not in a recognized irrigation district.

These producers either pay a water tax or a water licence and are recognized by the provincial crop insurance plan as being irrigators. Will the Parliamentary Secretary advise the House if the administrative difficulty in treating all irrigation farmers fairly can now be overcome?

Will the Government make use of the information that is readily available from places like the Irrigation Branch of the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture to ensure that all irrigation farmers will receive the same level of support in this year's Special Canadian Grains Program?

**Mr. Lee Clark (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the Member for Moose Jaw for his very conscientious efforts on behalf of irrigation farmers in his province.

Let me point out that there has been no announcement of a Special Grains and Oilseed Program No. 2, although I share his hope that there will indeed be such an announcement.

## Oral Questions

As a result of the efforts of the Hon. Member and some of his colleagues, very serious consideration is being given at the moment to ensuring that those irrigation farmers who live outside organized irrigation districts should be identified through the payment of a water tax or water licence fee and be entitled to share as other irrigation farmers do in any Special Grains and Oilseeds Program, if and when it is announced.

We may want to distinguish between those who are part of a pivot system and those who backflood, but that might be the only distinction.

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## NATIONAL PAROLE BOARD

### ALLEGATION RAPE COMMITTED BY PAROLEE

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the person who is answering for the Solicitor General. The Justice and Solicitor General Committee was told on Monday that an inmate, while on parole in Toronto, and while under the supervision of Operation Springboard, a private agency, committed a rape.

This incident took place on September 18 or 19 this year. It was alleged that the details of this sexual assault were subsequently covered up by officials of the Ministry of the Solicitor General. Will the Government give the House its undertaking to initiate an independent review of the circumstances of this particular incident?

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the good work that the standing committee is performing with respect to its investigation of the corrections system and parole system in Canada. It is too bad that the Hon. Member does not want to participate in that.

However, since he has raised this issue, I can assure him that the Solicitor General will obviously look into the matter on the basis of information that has been received.

I will also assure the Hon. Member that, once the investigation is over, the Solicitor General will have a response for the Hon. Member and Members of the House.

### ALLEGED ACTION BY BOARD CHAIRMAN

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston):** Mr. Speaker, we are seeking an independent review of the circumstances of this case. Hopefully it will be an independent review. While they are investigating, will they also investigate the further allegation that the Chairman of the National Parole Board approached the Chief of Police for Metropolitan Toronto, Mr. Marks, and requested that Mr. Marks "not go public" on this particular case?

Will the Minister of Justice give us his undertaking that this allegation will also be investigated?