

*Oral Questions*

By the way, Mr. Speaker, that committee is going to examine the possibilities for Canadian businesses and workers to position themselves to benefit from the agreement. It is not only involved in examining government programs that support adjustment. The committee has very important business to do. There are positive aspects to the Free Trade Agreement that they will be following.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think that the Hon. Minister is getting well away from the question. The Hon. Member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca.

## POSITION OF COMMISSION MEMBER

**Mr. David Barrett (Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca):** Mr. Speaker, in response to my good friend the Minister, I perhaps may be subject to the accusation of not having an original idea, but I have no difficulty in recognizing water when I see it, even after a 20-year absence.

If this report is going to be useful, Mr. McCambly said that the report is needed immediately. Did Mr. McCambly change his opinion of his own free will, or was he ordered to change his opinion by the Minister this morning?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, the last time I had an altercation with the hon. gentleman he had an open line show, and he is now a refugee from that open line show. This is not an open line show. This is a foot-in-the-mouth show for some people.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is appropriate to move on. The Hon. Member for Hamilton East.

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[Translation]

## AGRICULTURE

## PRESENCE OF PESTICIDES IN FOOD—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture.

One of the most appalling disclosures in the Auditor General's Report is that food that Canadians eat every day is not healthy. According to the Report, there are pesticides on the market that 55 years from now will still not have been tested.

I would therefore ask the Minister of Agriculture what he intends to do to remedy this dangerous situation, starting today.

[English]

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, we are putting in place a full-fledged inquiry into the whole pesticide review process. That has been a recommendation brought down by a Standing Committee and by others. The terms of reference and the people who will be conducting this review will be appointed very soon. There is widespread consultation going on with interested groups and indeed the provinces.

I might say that most of the observations that have been brought to the attention of the public by the Auditor General were brought to the attention of ourselves by the systems that we have put in place. We have established a number of systems to do that. As the Hon. Member knows, we have one of the best systems in the world and we want to continue to ensure that it remains that way. We obviously welcome the Auditor General's constructive observations in this matter.

## ABILITY TO CONDUCT TESTS

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, I am unclear why the Minister would be bragging about a system which puts pesticides that have known cancer causing capacities on the market-place, and where permanent testing is not done until 55 years after they have been brought into the market-place. I cannot understand why he calls that a good system.

Last August a study by the United Farm Workers in the city of Toronto showed that 86 per cent of California table grapes were dusted with pesticides of a cancer causing variety.

I would like to ask the Minister of Health what he intends to do immediately to improve the testing capacity, together with his colleague the Minister of Agriculture, and to assure consumers today that the table grapes that we are now buying are not dusted with potentially cancer causing pesticides as we saw in the city of Toronto last August?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, in response to the Hon. Member's question I simply say that for dairy, fruit, and vegetables the risk assessment will be completed by March, 1989.