

*Oral Questions*

[Translation]

**SOCIAL SECURITY**

## SPOUSES ALLOCATION PROGRAM—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Right Hon. Prime Minister.

Mr. Prime Minister, in the replies you gave earlier to the Member of the NDP and to my colleague about the meeting with the Minister of Finance to discuss social programs, you did say that your Government wants to help people in need, especially senior citizens.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Malépart:** Can the Prime Minister tell me whether he has changed his mind and his reply means that the 80,000 senior citizens who are single, separated or divorced will now receive assistance under the spouse allowance program?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, there has been no question. We only heard a statement. There was no question. I could perhaps continue my reply to the question asked by my good friend from London West.

[English]

I want to know a little about the London, Ontario, airport.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Then the Prime Minister should ask the Minister of Transport to make a statement, under Statements by Ministers, about the London, Ontario, airport.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

[Translation]

**Mr. Malépart:** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister is evading his responsibilities.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please!

**An Hon. Member:** Sit down!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order! The Hon. Member has a question, and I presume the House is ready to hear it.

**Mr. Malépart:** Would the Prime Minister tell us whether he has reviewed his decision and whether his Government will help from now on those 80,000 senior citizens who are single, separated or divorced, under the Spouse Allowance Program?

**Mr. Mulroney:** Mr. Speaker, we are going to help those in our society who have been neglected by the previous Government. As the Minister of Finance clearly indicated in his speech, they deserve special attention from this Government. We are going to help them unhesitatingly and unequivocally.

[English]

**AGRICULTURE**

## NORTHEASTERN SASKATCHEWAN FARMERS—FLOOD COMPENSATION

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. About four or five weeks ago in this House he said that Treasury Board would be considering some assistance for the farmers in north-east Saskatchewan who were flooded out last summer. Did the Minister get that through Treasury Board, will there be assistance to those farmers, and why is it taking so long?

**Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, in response to the Hon. Member's question, I can appreciate his interest in the matter. I did not think it was four or five weeks ago that I made that statement. I might put his mind at ease. We have completed the calculations on the Saskatchewan Manitoba excess water compensation. We are in the final stages of assessing a similar compensation payment to the Province of Quebec. I hope to be in a position, within a matter of a very few days, to make a positive announcement with respect to both.

## RATIO OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, during the election campaign the Minister's Party promised that it would put up two dollars for every dollar put up by the provincial Government. Can he assure the House today that that promise will be kept?

**Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):** Not exactly at this point in time, Mr. Speaker.

\* \* \*

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

## CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE—ARCTIC BIOLOGICAL STATION EMPLOYEES

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. As he knows, the Arctic Biological Station at Ste. Anne de Bellevue is to be closed as part of the Fisheries and Oceans cuts. Why has his office now advised all those who work there that they are not to make comments of any kind to the media, to the public, to Members of Parliament, or to any other government representative?

● (1500)

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am unaware of any such suggestion. I think it is probably quite inaccurate because I can assure my hon. friend that that would be completely inconsistent with my own views and with the wishes of the Government. We want the public to be fully informed of government policy.