

*Oral Questions***CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**

SELECTION OF NEW HEADQUARTERS SITE

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, let me try to bring the Hon. Member up to date with respect to various events which have been taking place over the years.

Mr. Broadbent: Starting in which century?

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): It will only take a few minutes, Mr. Speaker.

The meeting of the five industrialized countries which took place was part of a long process of meetings which have been going on for a number of years. However, most recently, it has been the culmination of meetings at which I have been in attendance with the IMF, the OECD, and the summit meeting in Bonn which were all directed at the same problem of inflation and divergence of economies and, also, the important problems with respect to exchange rates between various currencies. The particular meeting to which the Hon. Member has referred was supposed to resolve some of those problems as they relate to the five countries.

ABSENCE OF CANADIAN REPRESENTATION

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, what the Minister has said is interesting since it has been indicated by the office of the Minister of State for Finance that "the thing just hit us", in terms of the topic being discussed at that meeting. My original question to the Minister of Finance was: Because of the important implications which this meeting had for Canada, in terms of a depressed United States currency relative to ours, and the implications of that, who was representing Canada's interests—which of the Big Five?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I would like to make it clear to the Hon. Member that nine days before the meetings in New York I was in Washington. I met with Secretary Baker, Chairman Volcker of the Federal Reserve, and Chief of Staff Regan in the White House. At each of those meetings I brought to their respective attention the problems which we are facing in Canada, and the importance of the relationship with the United States and those policy matters which we felt important to be dealt with at IMF meetings—at any meetings prior to this.

I should also say to the Hon. Member that the G-Five meetings are normally held at this time of year. They are a prelude to the G-Ten meetings, which are meetings of other industrialized countries. We are part of that process and will continue to be a very important part of that process.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Reg Stackhouse (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister of Communications is addressed to his Parliamentary Secretary. The City of Scarborough is giving CBC the chance of a lifetime to locate its headquarters in Canada's fastest growing city, at a savings of \$95 million. What action will the Government take to assure the taxpayers of Canada that the question of the location of the CBC headquarters is still open and that this proposal will receive objective and thorough consideration?

Mr. Geoff Scott (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon. Member for his timely question which I know he asks on behalf of other Hon. Members from Scarborough. The Minister of Communications is aware of the proposal by the City of Scarborough. I am informed that the CBC has also been made aware of the Scarborough proposal. The Minister of Communications is certain that the CBC will be giving the proposal all due consideration.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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AGRICULTURE

CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE TALKS

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. It concerns the Canada-U.S. negotiations on free trade. Government documents indicate that the agricultural sector may not be exempt from negotiations on free trade because, in the documents, it is indicated free trade would increase productivity and accelerate the transfer of farmers out of agriculture. As the Minister well knows, without certain programs agriculture would be in a more desperate situation than that which it is in already. Will the Minister assure Canadian farmers that support programs and marketing systems, such as we have in place with respect to dairy and poultry products and Wheat Board commodities, will not be bargaining chips in the Canada-U.S. negotiations on free trade?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, in response to the Hon. Member's question, those of us who have been involved in the agri-food industry over a number of years would certainly recognize the sensitivity of the industry if we make a decision to go forward. However, I think the Government is determined to bring about a fair and better deal for Canadian agriculture.

STABILIZATION AND INSURANCE PROGRAMS

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, agriculture is facing the worst crisis since the 1930s. Why will the Minister not give a categorical commitment today that programs such