

*Oral Questions*

Canola, which is rapeseed, and for linseed oil, which is flax. However, the proposal leaves out totally the question of sunflower seed. The sunflower seed industry is about a \$35 million a year industry to Manitoba. It is a substantial industry also for Saskatchewan and Alberta. Is the Government looking at including sunflower into the total package so that we do have a true national oilseed crushing policy in this area? If so, in what manner, and what form will it take?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, that would require a long explanation. We have looked at this question and for three reasons we have not accepted the inclusion of other crops and other products, as suggested by Professor Gilson for Canola and linseed oil and meal. The first reason is the limitation of money. The second is, where do we stop, because there would be a great number of other products that people would want included. The third reason may be a bit philosophical, that it may not be the best way to start by making too many exceptions when you want to establish a new system.

## PLEA FOR SUNFLOWER INDUSTRY

**Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar):** Madam Speaker, the Minister of Transport will know that the first crop to be crushed on the Prairies in the 1940s was the sunflower crop. A brief presented to the Minister by the industry in Manitoba reports:

If in the final resolution to this transportation issue sunflower seed and its products are excluded, there is no question the sunflower crop is in danger of extinction.

Excluding a crop such as this means a substantial loss to the Prairie economy in all three Prairie Provinces. Surely the Minister of Transport can give the industry a more satisfactory answer, especially in view of the fact that the industry has given him figures to indicate that about \$750,000 is what it would take to bring the industry basically up to parity with the rapeseed or the Canola industry and the linseed oil industry on the Prairies? The sunflower industry cannot be allowed to die. It is as simple as that.

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, I have had a similar representation from another group. The alfalfa people, for example, presented the same case to me. Needless to say, my hon. friend is aware that if payments were made to producers, there would be a correction of that over a period of time.

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● (1450)

## CROWN CORPORATIONS

## CANADAIR—INVESTIGATION OF MARKETING PRACTICES

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Has the Cabinet, any Committee of Cabinet, any group directed by Cabinet, or

any Minister of the Crown, investigated the marketing practices of Canadair? In particular, have they investigated its marketing practices in relationship to the Challenger and in relationship to Canadair's firefighting aircraft?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I expect it would be the business of the board of CDIC, which now holds the shares the Government had in Canadair, to look at past and present practices to see if they can be improved in any way. Therefore I assume they will know what has been going on and what is going on. I do not know if the Hon. Member would call that an investigation in the parliamentary sense, but it is certain that when they appear before Parliament to ask for greater funds the Hon. Member will be in a position to ask them what they have found out about those practices.

## BRIBERY CONVICTION OF UNITED STATES SENATOR

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Madam Speaker, is the Prime Minister aware of a conviction registered against United States Senator Hohman of Alaska in which he was convicted on December 24, 1981, of accepting a bribe and offering to share a \$20,000 bribe from a Canadian Government-owned firm, Canadair Services Limited? If so, has he had that matter and other related matters investigated? If not, why not?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** No, Madam Speaker. That is the first time I heard of this matter. Certainly, if it were a verifiable allegation practised by a Government Department or a Crown corporation, it would be falling under guidelines that we issued some years ago against bribes. Indeed it might even come, depending on the circumstances, abreast of the Criminal Code. I have not heard of this. I suppose it would depend on the veracity of the facts, and I will have it looked into.

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## FINANCE

## INQUIRY RESPECTING POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF MORTGAGE INTEREST INSURANCE PLAN IN BUDGET

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that we have had some very erratic fluctuations in the interest rate in the last year or so, has the Minister responsible for CMHC discussed with him at any time, and laid before him, a plan which might be included in any budget?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, in the last year there has not been what the Hon. Member calls fluctuations. Fundamentally in the last year there has been a steady decline in interest rates. Today all major banks have announced that they are cutting down their prime rate again by half a point to about 11 per cent.

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