

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member will put his question, please.

Mr. MacLellan: I want the Government to know that galls me and other people on this side and I want to know why it does not gall the Government.

Mr. Jack Shields (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I have never heard anything so silly in all of my life in this House. That Member knows full well that the NEB operates under a set of guidelines and those guidelines are clear. They have public reviews where every consumer and consumer organization in this country has an opportunity to appear and make a complaint. There was virtually no complaint submitted to the NEB on this ruling. He knows that, and he is just trying to make political points on something he knows full well is not true.

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● (1440)

AGRICULTURE**SASKATCHEWAN STORAGE RESERVOIRS AND IRRIGATION PROJECTS—TRANSFER OF CONTROL**

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Grains and Oilseeds. Agriculture Canada is in the process of transferring storage reservoirs and irrigation projects in southwestern Saskatchewan in particular from the PFRA to the Saskatchewan Water Corporation.

Given that this provincial body is primarily concerned with municipal, urban, and recreational use of water, can the Minister assure the farmers of the Swift Current—Maple Creek area that agriculture will be given the same priority as it was under the PFRA and that the traditional responsibility of the PFRA is not going to be abandoned?

Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of State (Grains and Oilseeds)): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member raises a question which has a certain amount of topicality as far as the negotiations are concerned. The simple answer to that question is yes, that is one of the prime objectives of the negotiations. The way in which the PFRA has been able to deliver services in the past will be maintained if and when there is an agreement reached with the Government of Saskatchewan. Therefore, the simple answer to the question is yes.

FUTURE OF PRAIRIE FARM REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, the cattleman who was denied the Saskatchewan Water Corporation's permission to water his thirsty cattle because boaters on the Duncarn Dam would suffer will need stronger reassurance from the federal Government than that.

Is this the first step in the privatization of the PFRA as was recommended by the Nielsen Report?

Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of State (Grains and Oilseeds)): Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member has specific concerns about farmers in areas affected or about to be affected, I would be more than happy, as would the Minister of Agriculture, to look at them specifically. If he has some things with which he wants us to deal, we will be happy to do so if he lets us know.

Second, no, this is not the first step in any kind of privatization as recommended by the Nielsen Commission, absolutely not.

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[Translation]

CANADA POST CORPORATION**QUERY WHY MAIL NOT DELIVERED IN SAINT-MAURICE DE L'ÉCHOUIERIE**

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Canada Post Corporation.

Two hundred and fifty-five families in Saint-Maurice de l'Échouerie, in the Gaspé, have not received their mail since July 4, because Canada Post failed to renew the delivery contract with the drivers who normally deliver the mail.

Could the Minister explain to these families why Canada Post decided, without warning, to send the mail 30 miles down the road to the village of Rivière-au-Renard? Why do these families have to travel 60 miles a day to pick up their mail? Is that the new Canada?

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, apparently the Hon. Member is not able to direct that question to Canada Post directly, where he knows it belongs. I will refer it for him.

I also refer him to Beauchesne's where he will see that that type of question is, if anything, an Order Paper question and is not fit for Question Period.

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT MINISTER INTERVENE

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): Mr. Speaker, at this very moment, 255 families at Saint-Maurice de l'Échouerie are protesting and holding up a truck that delivers all the mail in the area. Is the Minister going to act responsibly and intervene to restore mail delivery to these people who are entitled to this service?