

*Oral Questions*

sations involving the Secretary of State for External Affairs for Canada and the foreign minister of Mexico regarding that arrangement. It is our expectation and our hope that it will be possible for that negotiation to be concluded at or before the visit to Canada of the President of Mexico, which we expect will occur some time in the spring.

**Mr. Andras:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question relating to the Prime Minister's final comment. Would the Prime Minister explain to the House, again based on information which I have been given, that there has been little or no contact with the President of Mexico to re-invite or reconfirm his invitation to Canada which was postponed, understandably, during the election period? Also, the Prime Minister might explain or confirm that there is a serious deterioration, as a result of this inept performance by this government vis-à-vis Mexico, regarding relations between those two countries which are so important to both countries?

**Mr. Clark:** Mr. Speaker, I can only suggest to the hon. member that he find a new source of information, because the two pieces of information he has put forward in the House this afternoon are categorically false. There have been extensive conversations involving Canada and Mexico in relation to the visit of the president. It is our expectation that the very good relations between the two countries will continue and, indeed, be improved by the president's visit here. I would suggest to the hon. member very seriously, because I know his respect for the House and for the truth, that he find a new source of information.

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● (1450)

[Translation]

**SHIPBUILDING****INQUIRY AS TO CONTRACTS TO BE AWARDED QUEBEC**

**Mr. Raynald Guay (Lévis):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the absence of the minister of patronage, I would like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. On behalf of the workers, and especially of the unemployed from the Lauzon Shipyards and from Marine Industries, and on behalf of the unemployed in general in Canada, I want to say to him that these people are fed up with promises and meetings. I need only remind the Prime Minister of the promises he himself made in Lévis where about 30 people came to see him. He met the president of the Lauzon shipyard workers and made a great many promises at that time.

I would, therefore, like to ask the Prime Minister whether, in light of the new federalism he was promoting during last weekend's convention in Quebec City, the province of Quebec will be getting some of the \$150 million in contracts announced by the previous government. More than three-quarters of those contracts have already been awarded in other

[Mr. Clark.]

provinces. Are there any left for Quebec? In particular, are there any—

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

**Mr. Guay:** For the contract, Mr. Speaker—

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member for Terrebonne.

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[Translation]

**AGRICULTURE****FEDERAL INSPECTION OF MEAT IN QUEBEC—PROVISION FOR SUFFICIENT STAFF**

**Mr. J.-Roland Comtois (Terrebonne):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Could he tell the House whether decisions have been made to remedy the difficult and even critical situation with regard to federal meat inspection in Quebec, a situation resulting from a shortage of qualified staff and an increasing demand for services from Quebec businesses?

[English]

**Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to respond to the hon. member's question and I appreciate his representations on this very important matter over the last couple of weeks. I am in a position today to indicate to the hon. member and to the House that a meeting has been scheduled, and will be held within the next two weeks, between the assistant deputy minister in charge of meat inspection in my department and his Quebec counterpart.

We are very confident that we will be able to fulfil the need for federal inspectors at Quebec plants from now until January 1. As of January 1, we will be in a better situation to have additional people available to carry out meat inspection in the plants of Quebec. On April 1, 1980, with the co-operation of my cabinet colleagues and, particularly, with the co-operation of the President of the Treasury Board, there will be 31 new inspectors brought on staff. That should solve our difficulties.

[Translation]

**INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT WILL SOON ANNOUNCE SUBSIDY FOR EASTERN CANADA POTATO GROWERS**

**Mr. Eymard Corbin (Madawaska-Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to revert to a question I asked the Minister of Agriculture 17 days ago exactly. I should like to know whether he has had the opportunity to look into a request for subsidies on behalf of eastern Canada potato growers, whether he has made a personal decision in this regard and whether the Treasury Board has come to a decision. If so, when does the minister intend to make a public announcement?