

Tributes

• (1200)

Is the government prepared to make adjustments to that program so that this money, which would not be new money, would be available to those corn producers to pay their bills this fall?

Mr. Murray Cardiff (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, I am very happy to respond to the hon. member's question about the current situation.

I know the government is aware of the terrible situation in Ontario, particularly with the wet weather and the lack of maturity of some of the corn crop.

The department is currently reviewing existing programs to see if there is not some method of getting some assistance out to the cash strapped farmers. We are aware of the disastrous situation and the lack of cash. We know that at this time of year many farmers have to depend on the sale of crops to meet expenditures.

We are working with the provinces through crop insurance, et cetera to see if there is something we can do.

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Madam Speaker, on April 21, 1988 the President of the Privy Council, in response to my questions, told the House: "If plutonium is to be moved following current practices by sea, that plutonium is subject to hijacking, subject to uses that can be extremely dangerous not only to Canadians but to all of mankind".

Japan required Canada's consent before beginning to ship 35 tonnes of plutonium oxide from Europe to Japan. The first shipment of 1.5 tonnes left France November 8 and is now in the south Atlantic. Canada gave its consent.

I would like to ask the Acting Prime Minister if he would explain to Canadians why the government reversed its position on safety and has now approved the risks of hijacking, nuclear accidents and possible contamination of the high seas.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (President of the Privy Council and Minister Responsible for Constitutional Affairs):

Madam Speaker, the hon. member correctly quoted me in my former capacity as giving the statement that he quoted into the record.

I have not been following the file personally lately. The Secretary of State for External Affairs is away from the House today on public business. I will draw the member's question to her attention and I am sure she will respond to it.

[Translation]

THE LATE HON. SENATOR THOMAS LEFEBVRE

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to rise in the House today to announce the death of our friend, Senator Tom Lefebvre.

As you know, he was a member of this House for the riding of Pontiac—Gatineau—Labelle for a long time, from 1965 to 1984. He was also our party's whip when we formed the government for many years. I am sure that opposition members and members of all parties realized what a gentleman and hard worker he was. He probably represented the best that Parliament can produce. He was a very simple man who came from a rural background. He spent his life serving his fellow citizens at all levels. He had only friends.

Personally, I considered him as one of my good friends, one of my good advisers, because he did not seek publicity or promotions and served his constituents extremely well. When we have difficulties in politics, and each one of us has had some, there are always people like him whom one wants to have around. In all circumstances, when giving advice, he showed sound judgment and really reflected the political grass roots.

He also believed deeply in this country.

[English]

Whenever he went travelling in Canada and abroad, he solidly defended the virtues of Canadians. I have heard him making some very moving, simple speeches about what it is like to be Canadian, to be of a different language and sharing his experiences with others.

He represented a riding where the francophones and the anglophones live together. He always maintained peace among them and he was admired by the two