

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Foster:** Mr. Speaker, a zero net income does not give any farmers, certainly the large group in Saskatchewan, any confidence at all.

The Prime Minister promised in December 1986 that he was going to stand with the farmers throughout the trade wars that are going on in farm commodities between the European Community and the United States. Still the United States is putting more and more money into the export enhancement program to steal away our markets, to drive down grain prices.

I want to ask the Prime Minister why he is breaking that promise that he made to Canadian farmers that he would stand with them.

A spokesman from the Minister of Agriculture's office said just two days ago that Ottawa will not repeat the special \$1 billion subsidies of the past three years and the Western Grain Stabilization Fund will not pay out this year or next.

If the government and the Prime Minister are not going to break their promise, then come clean and tell the farmers right now that you are not going to cut that \$2 billion of support which you have been promising all these years.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend clearly has the wrong Prime Minister. It was the other fellow who said to the western farmers: "Why should I sell your wheat?" You have got the wrong guy.

It was the other fellow who let interest rates rise to 24 per cent and just about crippled every farmer in Canada.

It was this Prime Minister who stood by the western farmers and eastern farmers and will continue to do so in spite of the negative, pejorative attitudes and the carping and the criticism that comes from the Liberals, which is why they have been rejected time and time again and will continue to be rejected in the future.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear!

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**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Industry. Investment Canada has now approved the loss

of yet another Canadian research and development company in approving both foreign bids for Connaught Biosciences. The minister will not stop it.

Will he, however, provide the specifics of the "extensive legal undertakings" agreed to by those two companies? In short, will he provide us the exact denomination of the 40 pieces of silver?

**Mr. Beatty:** I can see why you lost the leadership.

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot be bought for any \$7,000, I will tell you.

As required under the Investment Canada Act, Investment Canada evaluated the two applications that came in for the takeover bids of Connaught. As you will recall, the terms of the first bid by Merieux were deemed to not provide net benefit to Canada. They went back, reconsidered, improved the offer considerably in terms of its net benefit to Canada.

It is part of the press kit. Question Period does not permit me to go through all the details of the submissions and commitments made by both sides. It is part of the press kit.

Certainly, in my judgment and in the judgment of any fairminded person, both bids provide net benefit to Canada.

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**IMMIGRATION**

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Last night *Fifth Estate* exposed the immigrants' investment fund, which is a scam seen overseas, especially in Hong Kong and Taiwan, as a buy-a-passport scheme. Wealthy immigrants are buying their way into Canada, investing hundreds of thousands of dollars, often in questionable investment, while lower income people are denied equal access.

Will the minister immediately discontinue this program and stop peddling passports? When are we going to get some fairness in immigration policy in Canada?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, first, just to put this in some perspective, in 1988 we had in Canada 249 investor