

Oral Questions

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: We hear anti-patronage comments coming from the Grits, of all people. There ought to be a bolt of lightning to strike them all right on the floor of the House of Commons.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: More, more!

Mr. Mulroney: They are giving a brand new meaning to "temerity". You can be sure that if we wanted to do a favour to a friend, we would not make him chairman of Canada Post.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Prud'homme: You should appoint an NDP.

Mr. Deans: Don't you dare appoint a New Democrat.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: What's Howard Pawley doing after the next election?

Mr. Deans: Running the Government of Manitoba.

Mr. de Jong: That statement is going to haunt you.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION OF HONG KONG VETERANS

Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. The Minister will know that it was reported in the press that the Member for Saint-Jacques said that the pilgrimage the Minister is leading to the Far East later this week is "a pure, unadulterated junket". Would the Minister be kind enough to advise the House of the real purpose of this visit?

Hon. George Hees (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this pilgrimage is to pay homage to the more than 1,000 Canadians who gave their lives for their country in the Far East during the Second World War. The delegation will travel to Hong Kong, Burma, Singapore, and Tokyo, and will attend remembrance ceremonies at the cemeteries where our war dead are buried.

It has been claimed that this pilgrimage is nothing more than a junket. That is an insult to the memory of those who gave their lives for their country, and to the widows and mothers who lost loved ones in this theatre of war.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

AGRICULTURE

CHEESE PRODUCERS—ALLEGED THEFT OF IMPORT CERTIFICATES

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. He is, no doubt, aware of the theft by a Government employee of import certificates for cheese which, according to the British Columbia Federation of Agriculture, has cost producers over \$5.6 million in the past year. Is the Government prepared to reimburse these producers for this loss of income since it was caused by a government error?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Hon. Member's question. I wonder whether this is the proper forum in which to raise it, but I am aware of the situation. I checked on the matter in the latter part of last week and can only say at this point that it is under investigation.

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell us why, when the Government makes a mistake as it did in the case of EEC imports of beef or, in this case, certificates for cheese imports, it always requires that the farmers pay the cost rather than the Government itself which made the error in the first place?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I should utilize this opportunity to set the record straight. The Hon. Member makes some suggestion that we made a mistake with regard to EEC imports. The fact of the matter is that it was his Government which made the mistake. We took the action, and he should check his facts.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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LABOUR RELATIONS

SAINT JOHN, N.B.—WORK PERFORMED BY CREWS OF FOREIGN SHIPS

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration and is with regard to a situation which is presently occurring in Saint John, New Brunswick. Will the Minister take steps now to inform the port authorities and the stevedoring companies in Saint John, New Brunswick, that it is illegal for the crews of foreign ships to do on-shore work in Canada without authorized work permits?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, because I always pay such very proper attention to the representations which the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt makes, I will undertake to investigate that matter immediately.

Ms. Jewett: What's going on here?