

Oral Questions

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I think we have been most forthcoming in all the information for which the Hon. Member has asked. I will be more than happy to make available to him any studies which we have bearing on the rate of remuneration and bearing on the cost benefits type of information for which he is asking that we have at our disposal.

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ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

HAIDA CLAIM TO SOUTH MORESBY, B.C.

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Could he report to the House today on whether or not he has had any further response from the Premier of British Columbia in relation to the negotiations with the Haida people regarding South Moresby?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I inform the Hon. Member that the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, as he knows, has been dealing very directly with this issue. I will convey the question which the Hon. Member asked to the Minister when he has returned.

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AGRICULTURE

SUGAR-BEET INDUSTRY—STABILIZATION PAYMENTS

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister because we cannot obtain answers from the Minister of Agriculture concerning the sugar-beet industry in Canada. This industry is 90 years old. When specifically—on what date—will the agricultural sector involved in the sugar-beet industry be receiving the 1983 and 1984 stabilization cheques? When can farmers expect a long-term sugar policy from the Government?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I do not know why the Hon. Member is confused. I do not know whether he was in the House yesterday. I think it was yesterday that a question was posed to me in respect of the future of the sugar-beet industry in Canada. Of course the Government took action earlier to provide stabilization payments to ensure that the 1985 sugar-beet crop was planted.

Mr. Boudria: I asked about 1983 and 1984.

Mr. Wise: It was to ensure that last year's crop was planted. Of course growers in the Province of Manitoba and in the Province of Quebec took advantage of the program. However, it was not possible to reach an agreement in the Province of Alberta.

Also, in response to a question which I received yesterday from one of the Hon. Member's colleagues, I indicated that to

this point in time the Government has not made a decision in respect of the sugar policy.

● (1500)

[Translation]

SITUATION IN QUEBEC—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I would like to know specifically with respect to Quebec farmers whether the Minister is aware that Quebec's refinery will shut down if it does not receive assurances from the Federal Government that there will be a long-term sugar policy.

Does this Government want to wipe out 1,000 jobs in Quebec in this sector?

[English]

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member should realize that beets are not just grown in the Province of Quebec, but are also grown in the Province of Alberta and in the Province of Manitoba. We are concerned about this issue and we have spent a great deal of time and effort on it. I want to compliment, indeed everyone in the industry should compliment my colleague, the Minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board, who has provided some real leadership.

An Hon. Member: Where are the cheques?

Mr. Wise: We have not yet reached a decision.

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CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORTS

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions presented by Hon. Members on Monday, January 27, 1986, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

The petition presented by the Hon. Member for Fraser Valley East (Mr. Belsher) by filing with the Clerk of the House also meets the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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POINT OF ORDER

TIME LIMITED ON SPEECHES AT THIRD READING—RULING OF MR. SPEAKER

Mr. Speaker: I should like now to give a ruling with regard to a matter raised by the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) on Friday, January 24, 1986. The Member for Ottawa-Vanier asked for clarification on the interpretation of Standing Order 36(1) in relation to the length of speeches at third reading. Having considered the matter and verifying