Oral Questions

Prime Minister this morning will save Canadian farmers about \$200 million. The \$40 million that he is talking about, which is a freeze on the freight rates for the WGTA, will save Canadian farmers \$40 million in the coming year. That is what is important.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH QUEBEC AND NORANDA COMPANY ON CONSTRUCTION OF ACID MANUFACTURING PLANT

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. The Minister is no doubt aware that industrial pollution is a serious problem in my area, and I would like to ask him whether there has been any progress in negotiations with Quebec and Noranda on building an acid manufacturing plant, a \$110 million project that would remove 50 per cent of the 500,000 tons of sulphur dioxide emitted yearly in my region by Noranda mines.

[English]

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, Quebec produces about one million tonnes of acid rain-causing emissions a year. Half of those emissions originate from one company alone, Noranda. In accordance with a federal-provincial agreement signed in February, 1985, the Quebec Government is now negotiating with Noranda on a control program. For our part the federal Government has committed itself to a fair and equitable contribution to the cost of a control program affecting Noranda, especially in connection with the acid plant to which the Hon. Member made reference. We expect those negotiations to be completed very soon and to be able to sign an agreement with Quebec and the company concerned shortly thereafter.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

[Translation]

TRADE

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION CONCERNING STANDARDS REQUIRED OF JAPANESE AND KOREAN CAR MANUFACTURERS

Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for International Trade. Since General Motors has threatened to close down its plant at Sainte-Thérèse and the Americans are not particularly anxious

to invest in Quebec because of the preferential treatment granted the Korean car manufacturer Hyundai, does the Government intend to apply to Korean and Japanese manufacturers the same criteria it applies to the Americans with respect to Canadian content and assembly done in Canada?

[English]

Hon. James Kelleher (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member is aware that as of January 1, 1987, a 6 per cent duty is being put on cars imported from Korea. Furthermore, my colleague, the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, is presently carrying on discussions with both the Japanese and Korean car manufacturers to see what can be done to alleviate the concerns that he has so ably expressed.

[Translation]

INQUIRY WHETHER PRIME MINISTER WILL ANNOUNCE RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN CARS DURING VISIT TO KOREA AND JAPAN

Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Since these imports are a threat to thousands of jobs in the automobile industry in Quebec, does the Minister intend to ask the Prime Minister to announce restrictions on imports of foreign cars during his visit to Korea and Japan?

• (1500)

[English]

Hon. James Kelleher (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I can advise the Hon. Member that I am aware of the briefings that the Prime Minister has received with respect to trade issues. As the Hon. Member knows, he is visiting both Japan and Korea. I believe there will be some discussions during that visit.

Mr. Speaker: One question, the Hon. Member for Saint-Henri-Westmount.

Mr. Johnston: Did Your Honour say one short question?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Crosbie: Yes, one short question.

THE ADMINISTRATION

MINISTER OF REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION—PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri—Westmount): Mr. Speaker, I will ask my question, then, of the Deputy Prime Minister. In a press conference this morning the Prime Minister said that he was prepared to give his Minister the benefit of the doubt. If there was no perceived conflict of