

Oral Questions

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and I will be meeting on this matter this week. Our response will be made known to the House very shortly.

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THE ADMINISTRATION**PARKER COMMISSION REPORT**

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. I would like to ask the Minister to confirm that the Government has received in at least a preliminary version the report of Mr. Justice Parker into the investigation of conflict of interest involving the former Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion.

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm that because I am not aware of the fact we have received it.

REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION OF REPORT

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister check to see whether a copy has been received? And will he undertake that the report he receives from Justice Parker will be made public in its original version without editing or censorship?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I take it the Hon. Member asks his question as the expert of the Liberal Party on censorship so I will only receive the question on the basis that I will make inquiries. These matters are under the aegis of the Privy Council office, being under the Public Inquiries Act. I am sure that if the preliminary report is to be received, I will be apprised of that fact and I will make the Hon. Member aware of the result of my investigation.

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AGRICULTURE**SITUATION OF WESTERN GRAIN FARMERS**

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. Whatever the strengths and weaknesses of the Western Diversification Initiative are, the plan in no way deals with the immediate crisis in Canadian agriculture, particularly western agriculture. The Prime Minister has been in the west, he knows the plight the farmers face. Will the Prime Minister, now that he has called Parliament into emergency session, deal with a real emergency, the crisis facing grain farmers in the west? Will he announce to the farmers what kind of action his Government will take regarding emergency support for grain farmers in the 1987-88 crop year?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member should know, and if he does not know I am sure he will be interested in knowing, that we continue our series of meetings with the farm leaders. My colleague, the Minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board, and the Prime Minister, have already met with farm leaders. We continue that series of meetings. In fact our next meeting will be held in Winnipeg on August 27.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, the Government has announced another 18 per cent reduction in grain prices and that takes effect immediately. Is it not time the Government made some commitment so that the farmers know what the Government intends to do and so they know they are not in the position where they are not going to survive this next year?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member knows we have just completed the mailing of the Special Canadian Grains Program cheques, the largest single payment ever made by any Government in the history of the country, \$1 billion.

I think the very fact that we signalled the continuing commitment of this Government and the fact that we are continuing the series of meetings—we have had three meetings now and the next meeting, as I indicated in my response to your question, will be in Winnipeg later this month, August 27,—are a clear indication that this Government, because of the priority it places on agriculture and because of the fact we recognize that Canadian grain and oil seeds farmers are facing very difficult times, will continue that commitment.

We are going to continue to work with farm leaders because we find we will come up with a far better program working with farm leaders and letting them put the final details on the program together rather than acting unilaterally on behalf of the Government.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**NEW SPACE AGENCY—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister responsible for Industry, Science and Technology. I would remind him that Canadians, Montrealers particularly, are very impatiently waiting to know the final decision concerning the space agency which has been announced by this Government on a number of occasions. First it was to be announced last February then June, and now we learn that the decision has been again postponed.