

Oral Questions

Will she therefore withdraw the dreadful statement that she made on this subject last week?

[Translation]

Hon. Suzanne Blais-Grenier (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, if the Liberal environment critic had bothered to read the whole article, he would not be reacting to a headline that failed to reflect accurately the content of an hour-long interview. Canada's parks are part of our national heritage, and I intend to protect, improve and beautify them.

[English]

REQUEST FOR MINISTERIAL ASSURANCE

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Since she has withdrawn her statement, is the Minister now prepared to assure the House, and concerned Canadians from coast to coast, that she will not review or change the present policy of Parks Canada, namely, that there will not be any mining, timber cutting, or other activities in conflict with Parks Canada policy?

[Translation]

Hon. Suzanne Blais-Grenier (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I repeat that if the Hon. Member would stop reading newspaper headlines all the time, he would know about the many statements I have made before the Standing Committee of the House.

I believe that the stupidity of the Hon. Member's questions is equalled only by his abysmal lack of sincerity.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

UNITED STATES RULING ON CANADIAN HOG EXPORTS

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. We now have the ruling of the U.S. Commerce Department on the hog countervail. Can the Minister explain to the House what actions, if any, the Government is prepared to take to meet the conditions laid down by the U.S. ruling in order that the countervail will be withdrawn?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I share the concern of the Hon. Member on the issue which he has raised. This is not good news for us, or for the Canadian pork industry. However, this is not a final decision. The matter has been referred to the U.S. Trade Commission which will have to prove injury or damage to the U.S. pork industry. We have been successful in previous cases. We will be utilizing every opportunity possible to continue making representations on the issue, in hope that a positive, final decision will be rendered on or about July 25.

UNITED STATES POSITION

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. Given the response from the United States thus far, is there any indication that the Government will withdraw the proposed stabilization amendments which do not seem to meet with the approval of the U.S. Commerce Department?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am not exactly sure what the Hon. Member is referring to in his question. We must recognize that the greater part of the bonding provision results from traditional payments under the federal stabilization program coupled with numerous provincial stabilization payments. The message to be received from that is that we should attempt to move toward the tripartite stabilization plan which is currently before committee and the House.

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[Translation]

ADMINISTRATION

PORK INDUSTRY—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. the Prime Minister.

This morning we had an opportunity to meet with Quebec producers who readily told the committee they are convinced that they have been betrayed by the Government. Earlier the Prime Minister attempted to tell us that everything is going just fine, but I would point out to him that tragedy has just struck the pork industry in Canada and that the American decision is siphoning \$200 million from the industry. The Minister is saying he will wait until July 25.

Mr. Speaker, would the Minister tell us whether he intends to wait for the fourth decision—he has already lost the first three and we happen to know that his inaction will lead to many bankruptcies in the pork industry—or whether he will do something now rather than wait until he is once again faced with a unilateral decision by the American Government?

[English]

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the Government has not abandoned the Quebec pork producers or any other producer group in the country. One can simply look at the facts to see what we have achieved since assuming office on September 17. In fact we resisted an application from pork producers to make additional stabilization payments. That was not a popular or pleasant position to have to take but, upon reflection, the resistance which we exerted at the time resulted in benefit to the pork producers.

I have indicated before that this is not a final decision. It now goes back to the U.S. Trade Commission which will have to prove injury. Experience in previous cases has shown that we have been successful. We are going to continue to work