

Oral Questions

Mr. Michel Bellehumeur (Berthier—Montcalm, BQ): Mr. Speaker, again, the government has a perfect score: 17 out of 17 requests for information have been turned down. Not a bad average.

In that case, why does the Prime Minister refuse to release the studies on overlap and duplication, whose existence was confirmed in the secret Industry Canada document? That much is clear.

• (1455)

Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs gave a more than adequate explanation on this matter a few days ago in this House.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

Mr. Elwin Hermanson (Kindersley—Lloydminster, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister of agriculture.

Canadian farmers have been delivering wheat and barley to the United States, often clearing Canadian customs without a Canadian Wheat Board export permit. On Tuesday, three American trucks hauling barley from Canada were seized by customs as they tried to enter the United States. Previously, these same trucks with the same product were allowed to enter the United States.

Is it legal or is it illegal? Are exports permitted or are they refused? Will the minister tell confused farmers why some trucks are seized and others are not?

Hon. Ralph E. Goodale (Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the law on this point is very clear with respect to export of wheat and barley from Canada. Obviously the appropriate paperwork and authorization from the Canadian Wheat Board are required. When that paperwork is not provided the export is contrary to the regulations. Those regulations are enforced in due course as the law requires. I trust the Reform Party is not advocating violations of the law.

Mr. Elwin Hermanson (Kindersley—Lloydminster, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, actually the law is not always enforced. Farmers do not know what the law is because there is no standard.

The minister in charge of Canadian customs, the Minister of National Revenue, has received notice that today trucks carrying farmer owned wheat and barley will pull in at Canada customs at the Peace Gardens in Manitoba. I would like to know if the minister has given orders to customs officials to seize the trucks or if he has given orders to let those trucks pass through into the United States?

Hon. Ralph E. Goodale (Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the officials of the Government of Canada, whether they work for my department or Revenue Canada or any other department of the Government of Canada,

need no instructions to do their job. They know what their job is and they will exercise their responsibilities.

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[Translation]

OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Mr. Geoff Regan (Halifax West, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Foreign Affairs. It appears that members of the Bloc Québécois cannot decide whether or not they want the federal government to spend money in Quebec.

Does Quebec get its fair share of economic benefits from official development assistance?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, finally a question that will certainly interest our friends across the way.

Mr. Chrétien (Saint-Maurice, Lib.): Excellent question. We had been expecting it for a long time.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Ouellet: Mr. Speaker, they obviously do not like being given figures that clearly show how good Canada and the Government of Canada are for Quebec businesses and to Quebecers.

As for official development assistance, 30 per cent of supplies come from Quebec, and 33.4 per cent of registered consultants are from Quebec.

An hon. member: One hundred per cent of them Liberals.

Mr. Ouellet: More than one third, or 36.3 percent, of all contracts go to Quebec.

I can hear a voice shouting: "Liberals". I will remind my hon. friends opposite that one of the organizations that benefit the most from CIDA's assistance is Hydro-Quebec.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Some hon. members: Ah.

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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Mrs. Pierrette Venne (Saint-Hubert, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. On Monday, the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and the Prime Minister both said that Quebec was receiving more than its share of federal moneys for science and technology. However, the secret document prepared for Operation Unity clearly shows that, in 1993, Quebec only received 17.1 per cent of the federal moneys spent on research and development.

Given the figures provided by Industry Canada, will the Prime Minister recognize that he was wrong when he claimed that Quebec was getting its fair share, and that in fact our province was treated unfairly as regards the establishment of federal research centres?