

Oral Questions

Funeral services should be considered a final extension of the health care services in this country and should, therefore, remain tax exempt.

A government tax should not be imposed on the cost of having one's loved one taken away from them.

The government is demonstrating a total lack of appreciation for the sensitivity toward people that must be constantly practised by those in the funeral business.

Once again, this government has demonstrated a lack of respect for the people of this country, those who are alive as well as those who have deceased.

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[*Translation*]

AGRICULTURE

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, in Rouyn-Noranda on April 10 and 11, this year, an important event will take place and I am referring to the international symposium on grass ensilage. The purpose of the symposium is to discuss all aspects of ensilage, a modern technology that has played an important role of in the development of agriculture in Eastern Canada. There will be discussions on preserving ensilage and on livestock performance in relation to ensilage processing. Some of our foremost researchers from North America and Europe will be heard during this conference.

In addition to farmers in Abitibi—Témiscamingue and Northern Ontario, participants will include farmers from Eastern Canada, agronomists, technicians, veterinarians, researchers, university experts and farm input distributors.

Congratulations to the agri-food research council of Abitibi—Témiscamingue for deciding to organize this type of prestige event in Abitibi—Témiscamingue!

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[*English*]

TRADE

Mr. David Barrett (Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca): Mr. Speaker, slowly and relentlessly we see the whole manifestation of the so-called free trade agreement with the United States and Canada unfold.

Part of the plot is now more evident than ever before. The United States decision to enter unilateral negoti-

ations with Mexico for a free trade agreement with that country places Canada between a rock and a hard place.

This government has given up all the leverage it had in the control of our resources. Now, with access by the United States to a Mexico free trade agreement, we will not be in a position to protect what is left of Canadian industry.

This country's economy and control of its resources are at peril.

I ask the government to either come clean on this deal and tell us whether or not it is in a trilateral agreement with Mexico, or cancel the free trade agreement with the United States before it is too late.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[*English*]

THE ECONOMY

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister.

I want to ask the government questions about the crises it is failing to deal with in two key sectors of our economy—agriculture and the fishery.

So far, the government has failed to come up with any meaningful plan of action for the fishery. Last Friday, it came up with a totally inadequate plan of financial help for our farmers, but only if it was matched by the provinces themselves.

Even Conservative Premier Devine of Saskatchewan could not accept this. He said his province could not afford to pay any more and that it alone needed \$500 million just so its farmers could get their seed into the ground this spring.

When is the government going to recognize the crisis in agriculture and come up with a truly meaningful plan for our farmers, something that will help them survive and contribute to our economy?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the government has recognized the problem in agriculture and the problem in the fisheries.