

*Privilege—Mr. J. Turner*

convince the Congress of the necessity of accepting a free trade arrangement. Yet we have a clear condition put down by members of that Congress that they will not accept such an agreement unless there are changes to the Auto Pact. We also have the Premier of Ontario saying that he cannot accept changes to the Auto Pact.

I do not want any more of this gobbledegook about whether or not it is on the table. I want the assurance today from the Prime Minister that the negotiators for the Canadian side will not accept any changes to the Auto Pact, as requested by the Premier of Ontario.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the record will show that from the very beginning the Hon. Member opposite has done every conceivable thing he can do to sabotage the free trade talks with the United States of America.

**Some Hon. Members:** Right on.

**An Hon. Member:** So has the U.S. Congress.

**Mr. Mulroney:** The record will show that his contributions to this debate have been spurious and negative right from the very beginning. And today is not—

**Mr. Axworthy:** Are you going to answer the question?

**Mr. Mulroney:** I will answer the question. He has been consistent right up today—

**Mr. Axworthy:** And you haven't. That is the problem. Why don't you try being consistent.

**Mr. Mulroney:** In reference to the letter sent by the Premier of Ontario—and it was a confidential letter, by the way—the letter I received from Premier Peterson is headed: "To the Prime Minister. Confidential." And now I see in *The Toronto Star* today "that some industry sources say the letter, apparently drafted by deputy industry minister, Patrick Lavelle, raises an old bogymen without bringing the issues into focus."

● (1500)

This is a quote from *The Toronto Star*. If it is from *The Toronto Star*, it has got to be dead accurate. Indeed, this is a mischievous attempt if indeed—

**Mr. Axworthy:** Did you get a letter or not?

**Mr. Mulroney:** Of course I got a letter from Premier Peterson. I get all kinds of letters from Premier Peterson and from the other Premiers—

**Mr. Axworthy:** What was your reply to him?

**Mr. Mulroney:** That is question number four. Let's go for question number five.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Let's go for question number six.

**Mr. Mulroney:** What is the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Swift Current—Maple Creek.

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## AGRICULTURE

### SPECIAL CANADIAN GRAINS PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF SOUTH-WEST SASKATCHEWAN FARMERS

**Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. It concerns the Special Canadian Grains Program, a program which was recently modified to permit payments to irrigation farmers in certain designated areas of Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Southwestern Saskatchewan has over 40 per cent of the irrigated land in Saskatchewan and is not one of the designated areas.

Could the Minister explain to irrigation farmers in southwestern Saskatchewan why they would be excluded from the program? Could he undertake to re-examine the situation in conjunction with the western advisory group under the Special Canadian Grains Program?

**Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate and understand the interest which the Hon. Member has taken in this particular subject. He realizes that the guidelines, the rules, and the criteria were laid down by farm leaders in concert with ourselves. We have established the advisory group to ensure fairness and equity.

The Hon. Member has raised a rather unique and particular problem in respect of his own region of the province. I want to give him the commitment today that I am taking his recommendation under advisement and that I am placing some priority on it. I am arranging a meeting this afternoon with the advisory committee to deal with that specific problem, and I invite the Hon. Member to attend.

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## PRIVILEGE

### TAX REFORM CONSULTANTS' ACCESS TO INFORMATION

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to raise a question of privilege of which I gave you notice earlier today. It relates to the principle of secrecy of fiscal matters, whereby information relating to proposed tax changes is revealed first only to the House of Commons. This has been, in my submission to Your Honour, breached by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson).