

*Oral Questions*

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, that has been done before, but I will certainly renew the offer. If there is anything we can do to improve that agreement, Canada wants to do it.

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**AGRICULTURE****FLOOD DAMAGE COMPENSATION FOR FARMERS IN NORTHEASTERN SASKATCHEWAN**

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Last summer the Prime Minister announced that compensation would be given to farmers in five rural municipalities in northeastern Saskatchewan in the amount of \$16 million, due to flood damage in 1983 and 1984. Many of the 1,700 farmers involved face terrible hardships due to crop loss this year. The Treasury Board approved this funding in August of this year. Can the Minister explain why these funds are being held up rather than being paid to these hard pressed producers?

**Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, in response to the Hon. Member's question, I am not sure whether his information is complete and accurate. It is my understanding that indeed the \$16 million was not approved by the Treasury Board. However, I have been in western Canada and have spoken with my provincial counterparts, as well as with my colleagues in Cabinet and many members of my caucus. We have completed the submission, and it is before the Treasury Board at the moment.

**REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE PAYMENT**

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, it is my information that this funding was approved in August. The Premier of Saskatchewan is in Ottawa today. Why does the Minister not take the opportunity to make this payment immediately and announce it right now?

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**PORNOGRAPHY****REQUEST THAT CRIMINAL CODE BE AMENDED**

**Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. The action of the Minister of National Revenue who stopped the entry into Canada of the December issue of *Penthouse* magazine, which expressly depicts bondage scenes of the most degrading and dangerous sort, an outrage to women, men, and, in this case, the Japanese culture, was only a very late reaction. These magazines should never have crossed the border.

Will the Minister reiterate before the House the electoral promise made by the Prime Minister to propose an amendment that would include gender in Section 287 of the Criminal Code on hate literature? Will he assure the women and men of

Canada that the customs tariff and the provisions of the Canada Post Corporation Act concerning obscene, violent and degrading material will be enforced by his Government with all the rigour and vigilance required?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, the administration of the customs tariff is in the hands of the Minister of National Revenue who is already attending to that particular feature of the Hon. Member's question.

With respect to the other question which the Hon. Member asked, the Prime Minister's commitment will certainly be carried out. Further, we hope that even more effective steps will be taken to improve provisions of the Code that relate to hate propaganda and pornography.

As the Hon. Member knows, there was a commission appointed by the last Government, under the chairmanship of Mr. Fraser, to study the subject of pornography and prostitution. That commission should be reporting in the next month or two. We do not want to move without having the benefit of that report first. You may be assured that after Christmas measures will be laid before the House.

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**THE ECONOMY****ECONOMIC STATEMENT—IMPACT ON PROPOSED MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE**

**Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance, if I could have his attention. His Government promised jobs, consultation, and effective representation for the West in Cabinet, yet in the economic statement the Government cut out the Manufacturing Technology Institute, something which is going to have a negative impact on jobs in Manitoba. That was done without consultation, and the cabinet Ministers from the West were ineffective in stopping this savage blow at the Manitoba economy.

When the Minister goes to Winnipeg in a very short period of time, will he be willing to meet with a representative committee of Manitobans, representing government, labour, and business, in order to give a thorough review of this matter of the funding of the Manufacturing Technology Institute?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Yes I would, Mr. Speaker.

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION**

**Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the commitment from the Minister to meet with a representative group of—

**Mr. Speaker:** No, no. The Member asked a long question and got a short answer. Could we have a short supplementary question, please?