

*Oral Questions*

for a moment, to when I was asking the same kind of question of him and he was on this side of the House as Minister of Justice. He had very good reasons then for not responding in the detail that I wanted, and I have very good reasons now for copying his example of those days.

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**AGRICULTURE**

## CANADIAN ATTENDANCE AT OECD MEETING

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. He will be aware that the escalating agricultural trade and pricing dispute between the United States and the European Community is a major topic at the OECD meeting which is taking place in Paris this week. Could he explain why Canada, which is already suffering great losses in its agricultural industry, has no one from the federal Government with a background in agriculture to speak for its agricultural interests or to represent Canadian producers?

**Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Hon. Member's observation, but I think the record will clearly demonstrate that we have always been in full and complete support of the agricultural industry. One can always find ways and means in this modern world, particularly with the friends we have throughout the world primarily as a result of the election of this Government, to represent this industry.

## PRICE OF CANADIAN WHEAT

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, since the next move of the OECD talks is to Tokyo where Japanese farmers will be getting \$20 Canadian per bushel of wheat, while the Europeans will be getting 30 per cent more than the Americans, who next year will be getting in excess of \$6 Canadian per bushel, how does the Minister expect Canadian farmers to stay competitive in the world with their pittance of just over \$3 Canadian?

**Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of State (Canadian Wheat Board)):** Mr. Speaker, the people representing Canada outside our borders are well aware of the agricultural situation and are well able to speak on our behalf. One of the things we have done since assuming office is to ensure that there are representatives of the various industries when we negotiate. It is a healthy development, when we look at what the past Government did.

We have a Prime Minister who has said that there is more we have to do for western agriculture and that we would do it within the constraints imposed upon us by the economic situation. That is a healthy sign. Not only western farmers but all Canadian farmers realize it, as opposed to one of the previous Governments which left a phrase ringing in farmers'

ears in the West when its Prime Minister said: "Why should I sell your wheat?" We are very happy to have a Prime Minister who cares.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

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**TRADE**CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—STATEMENT  
ATTRIBUTED TO CANADIAN NEGOTIATOR

**Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. In a speech in Toronto yesterday, Canada's free trade negotiator, Simon Reisman, said: "I made it clear here that I am proceeding on the assumption of a clear launch with everything on the table". How can the Government square the position taken by the trade negotiator with that taken by the Prime Minister and his Government who have repeatedly told Canadians that the Auto Pact was exempt, that cultural industries were exempt, and that unemployment insurance programs were exempt? Who speaks for Canada?

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** I guess Nielsen speaks for Canada on almost everything.

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** The Prime Minister and his Government, Sir.

● (1440)

## NEGOTIATION AGENDA

**Hon. Douglas C. Frith (Sudbury):** Mr. Speaker, can the Prime Minister and his Government at least get their act together and inform the trade negotiator what is for negotiation and what is not? The Government simply can not confuse Canadians any longer with contradictory positions between itself and Simon Reisman.

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, any time I can assist the Hon. Member, or indeed any other Hon. Member in his Party, in curing their confusion, I will be very happy to do so.

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**AIRPORTS**

## FIREFIGHTERS' LABOUR DISPUTE

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. The Minister will know that 1,400 airport firefighters have been without a contract for almost two years now. On April 3 a majority conciliation report was handed down and reluctantly accepted