

*Oral Questions***AGRICULTURE****NATURAL SUGAR SWEETENER INDUSTRY**

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, sugar-beet and high fructose corn producers need a natural sugar sweetener policy to bring some stability to the industry and hope for the future. The Tariff Board recently released its report on the industry. It studied three possibilities—a minimum floor price, stabilization, or buy-out schemes.

The researchers did not think a floor price of 12 cents a pound was necessary because they believed raw sugar prices are on the upswing and will eventually approach this figure. However, they did not consider cyclical price variations, nor did they address the issue of countries dumping sugar on Canada's doorstep and depressing our price.

The report expresses fear of increasing the price to industrial users and having it passed on to consumers, yet it did not worry about the fact that the price of products with a substantial sugar content has increased substantially since 1981 even though world sugar prices have plummeted. Nor did the researchers they explain why U.S. sugar products sell at less than Canadian prices even though U.S. producers have a substantial floor price.

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[Translation]

HEALTH**REHABILITATION SALON**

Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Québec East): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity today to bring to your attention a first for North America, namely, the Salon de la réadaptation which was held at Quebec City from June 3 to June 5 this year, thanks to the co-operation of the Department of National Health and Welfare and the Department of the Secretary of State of Canada.

By electronic and direct means, the Salon has given people a chance to become better acquainted with products and services designed to improve the quality of life of those who are functionally handicapped and of their family and those who care for them.

Mr. Speaker, the Salon also gave us an opportunity to appreciate some very good paintings and sculpture made by artists with functional handicaps, which proves that art overcomes all barriers.

I would like to pay a special tribute to artists from the Quebec City area who met this challenge, and I am referring to Mrs. Ginette Chalifour, Solange Laliberté, Lise St-Hilaire and Yves Bussi res, who made the magnificent sculpture in the entrance hall of the Fran ois Charron Rehabilitation Centre.

I also want to take this opportunity to emphasize the dedication of all hospital workers in the greater Quebec City

area, including the Saint-Fran ois d'Assise and l'Enfant-J sus hospitals and the Fran ois-Charron Centre, located in the beautiful riding of Qu bec East.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

TAX REFORM**CONSULTANTS' ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, what is the Prime Minister doing about the fact that today 20 leading tax consultants have inside information about tomorrow night's tax reform statement and documents? What is the Prime Minister doing about the fact that these lawyers and accountants, whose firms make millions of dollars from providing tax advice, are in Ottawa today reviewing that White Paper? Why do some wealthy Canadians have privileged access to information which Members of Parliament and average Canadian taxpayers do not yet have? What is the reason? What is the justification? What is he going to do about it?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, that surprises me coming from the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition. I understand that when he was Minister of Finance this same sort of thing went on.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): If Hon. Members would let me continue? Experts are brought in and asked to take the same oath of secrecy that public servants take. Then they provide guidance to departmental officials on the technical aspects of the proposals put forward on a range of issues.

• (1420)

As I said, this has been going on for a number of years. It was increased following the 1981 Budget because of the problems which arose at that time, in order to avoid the glitches which can come into this type of proposal.

[Translation]

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, this incident is unbelievable, unjustifiable and very alarming for the country. These tax reform propositions to be unveiled tomorrow are so important that the Minister of Finance will wait until all Canadian stock markets have closed down before making his presentation tomorrow night. They are so important that he will make them public in a country-wide televised speech. How can the Prime Minister justify the fact that the Minister of Finance has held secret meetings where 20 accountants and lawyers specializing in tax matters were able to scrutinize these confidential propositions ahead of