

Oral Questions

[English]

Hon. Sheila Copps (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, with the agreement of the House, I would like to table the *Irving Whale* sidescan sonar survey which was conducted between the June 12 and 15, 1994.

Yesterday the member claimed that no survey had been done. In fact, last night at 5.30 we sent a copy of the survey to her office. I would like to read a portion of the survey to her.

The sidescan sonar portion of the survey was performed by the Environmental Marine Geology Subdivision of the Atlantic Geoscience Centre, Geological Survey of Canada using a Simrad MS992 dual frequency (120 and 330 kHz) sidescan sonar; and a GeoAcoustics SE880—

• (1450)

[Translation]

Mrs. Monique Guay (Laurentides, BQ): Mr. Speaker, once again, we already have this study, this report. The system is not accurate.

Will the minister acknowledge, finally, that there is some controversy surrounding her decision, with, contrary to what she claims, a number of people, including four experts in ship salvage and a scientific expert from her own department expressing serious doubts about her decision?

Hon. Sheila Copps (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, following the requests by members who have made a number of unfounded accusations up to now, it was I who provided her yesterday with the results of the three-day study.

I am not a scientist, but I have much greater faith in the Geological Survey of Canada than in the politics of the hon. member across the floor, who, to date, has not read any report or accepted any analysis and has even refused to read the documents I provided the House on this matter last year.

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[English]

CROW RATE

Mr. Leon E. Benoit (Vegreville, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, farmers need clarification from the minister of agriculture as to who the Crow phase out payment is intended to benefit. Is it intended to benefit landowners or is it intended to benefit farmers?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the minister of agriculture who is presently out west talking to a wide number of farm organizations, I will take the hon. member's questions as notice.

The package that was announced in the budget to provide assistance to farmers with the phase out of the WGTA is designed to ensure that the investment can continue to be made for developing a new agricultural industry in western Canada. In this way agriculture can diversify and provide more value added products. That is the criteria the minister of agriculture will use. As he always does, he will use good judgment and good common sense.

Mr. Leon E. Benoit (Vegreville, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, on February 27, 1995 a departmental paper said the phase out money would go to landowners to help compensate for the loss of land value.

The next day the agriculture minister was quoted as saying that he was open to the possibility of encouraging provincial governments to pass the payment on to land renters.

The minister seems confused. Is the payment meant to compensate for the loss in land value or to help compensate for the extra freight cost? Farmers need an answer on this.

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the hon. member's question is a little bit confused.

As I just explained, the minister of agriculture indicated that he is going to discuss this with a wide variety of farm organizations, which is what he is doing today, and to provide those kinds of answers. He made his position very clear.

We want to ensure that the compensation package is used in the most effective way possible to enhance the development and the reorganization of western agriculture so it can continue to offer a major base of economic growth in western Canada.

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INTERNET

Mr. Sarkis Assadourian (Don Valley North, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry. Ernst Zundel, a convicted Nazi holocaust denier, and other Zundels of the world, intend to use Internet technology to spread direct propaganda.

What action can the minister take, first, to regulate the Internet from being used to spread hate propaganda, and second, will Internet users be made accountable?

Hon. John Manley (Minister of Industry, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, first of all, the propaganda perpetrated by people like Ernst Zundel is as unacceptable on the Internet medium as it is in any other.

We deplore the fact that this kind of material exists in our society. The Information Highway Advisory Council is current-