

*Oral Questions*  
**AGRICULTURE**

**NATIONAL BEEF STABILIZATION PROGRAM**

**Mr. Bill McKnight (Kindersley-Lloydminster):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. My question is with regard to the national stabilization plan for beef which the minister has so often repeated is necessary. I am not talking about a supply management program, I am talking about a national stabilization system. Has the minister had communication with the province of Saskatchewan regarding the implementation of national beef stabilization program?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, I do not know what the hon. member means when he asks if I have had communication with the province of Saskatchewan. I have an office in Regina and we are in communication with them every day. I do not know how long back he wants to go, whether it is the full eight years I have had the office there, or not.

Yes, we had communication as late as a week ago today when the minister of agriculture for Saskatchewan was here. I am sure the hon. member knows that they have initiated a provincial program. They, too, want some kind of national program, but they want it their own way. We proposed in 1977 a 100 per cent income insurance program.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Whelan:** They do not want to hear about that, Madam Speaker, because they say that we did not offer them anything. We offered them a plan that guaranteed 100 per cent of the cost of production. They turned it down in Saskatchewan.

**INQUIRY RESPECTING CONSULTATION WITH SASKATCHEWAN**

**Mr. Bill McKnight (Kindersley-Lloydminster):** Madam Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture can answer my supplementary question with a yes or no. Has the minister consulted with the province of Saskatchewan within the last two to three weeks in order to implement a national beef stabilization program and, if so, has Saskatchewan agreed to accept the proposal?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member knows very well that we have sent out 142,000 letters to beef producers in Canada. They are still coming in by the thousand. We have not put them through the computer to see what the response is. The agriculture committee in the other place has just finished hearings. Senator Hays, the chairman, will be making recommendations. I have a two-person committee who has studied all the reports on beef marketing, etc. It will be sending in a report. As soon as all that is finished, we will be presenting a report to the Parliament and people of Canada.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**EL SALVADOR—HOLDING OF DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS**

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The minister is aware of the unanimous report tabled by the 15-member sub-committee yesterday on Canada's relations with Latin America and the Caribbean. In that report they approached the important question of elections in El Salvador from the fundamental perspective of human rights, stressing that in the present circumstances of "murders, tortures and disappearances" the circumstances are not right for democratic elections. Does the minister now agree that the unanimous recommendation contained in this report that there first should be negotiations between the parties involved in the conflict, then a supervised cease-fire, and finally an internationally supervised election, should be the order of priority?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Madam Speaker, the report of the committee is one of great interest to members of the House and to government. I admire the idealism of the members of the committee.

**An hon. Member:** It is called democracy.

**Mr. MacGuigan:** In many ways, we share that idealism. However, the situation with which we are confronted is not whether we approve of something which another government might do, or whether we do not. The government of El Salvador has already called elections for a certain date, so the hypothetical situation which the members of the committee have set up, which would reflect the ideal, is not the one which we face in reality. Therefore, we have to make a decision in the real world as to what we will do in response to this situation.

We have continually said that we favour a political settlement and negotiations among the parties. We have even offered to make our territory available for such negotiations. We will continue to pursue that line. We will do our best to influence El Salvador and the rebel forces, both of whom I will be meeting shortly, in the direction of a peacefully negotiated settlement. It is not for us to interfere in the internal affairs of another country and to determine the manner in which one of their election campaigns will be run. We can give advice, and we will.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT ATTEMPT TO PROMOTE  
 NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT**

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, the minister says that it is not for the Government of Canada to approve. I point out to him that several times in this House in the past that he has given approval for elections at this time. Therefore I ask the minister, following the unanimous report from members of all parties, and the lead given by the Presidents of both France and Mexico, as well as the 632 to 43