

*Oral Questions***REVENUE CANADA**

CALCULATION OF FARM MACHINERY TRADE IN PRICES

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance who, during Question Period, outlined what seems to me to be a new government policy. He said: "This Government permits wholesalers and retailers to set their own prices".

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the Hon. Member can put his question.

Mr. Althouse: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now that this is government policy—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lewis: Isn't that NDP policy, too?

Mr. Althouse: Now that this is the government's new policy—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An Hon. Member: Wait for it!

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member.

An Hon. Member: Try again!

Mr. Althouse: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now that this seems to be the Government's new policy, with respect to Revenue Canada's attempts to set trade-in values on farm tractors and combines three or four years after the deal, to re-write the contract, to set the trade-in price for the retailer, does this mean that the Government is going to drop that stupid, regressive policy and allow those deals to stand?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I welcome the NDP to the real world.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): They have never understood the workings of the market-place. But I think the Hon. Member, if he reflects on where he buys his gasoline, sometimes might be able to get it at a penny or two less a litre somewhere else.

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): Not much less!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Sometimes there is a clearance sale around the end of the year. Sometimes even where he buys his tractor or his combines, maybe he would see there would be a little bit of competition there.

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): Come off it!

Mr. Manly: Answer the question.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): I know the NDP does not like this. I know that the NDP would like to be able to control all the big levers of pricing, but there is this thing called the market-place which operates very well and very effectively.

Mr. Angus: You missed the point, Mike.

Ms. Mitchell: Why do you not listen?

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): I hope the NDP would adopt this in their thinking.

REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT CEASE PRACTICE

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question would be to inform the Minister that his Department, under his ministry, the Revenue Department, has been doing precisely what he is claiming the NDP does, and it is his Government that has been doing it. We have been asking for the last six months for the Government to cease and desist. Will he now do that?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): You would not know a farm tractor if it ran over you.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): And you look like one did!

An Hon. Member: Would you know one?

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): We used to make them in Brantford until you came to power.

Mr. Althouse: Let us hear the answer.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Sometime, Mr. Speaker, I am going to invite the Member for Brant up to my little farm north of Toronto.

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): What are you raising, fish?

• (1150)

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): The Hon. Member has asked a serious question in relation to trade-in values on tractors, combines and other implements. He knows full well that the Department of National Revenue is looking at them on an individual, case-by-case basis. In the case of substantial write-ups, the Department has taken action. But it is being done on a case-by-case basis where there are instances of some shading in the tax rules.