

*Oral Questions*  
**AGRICULTURE**

**MARITIME FEED GRAIN COSTS**

**Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Would he be prepared to consider favourably the representation he has received from the Maritime Farmers Council concerning the disparity in feed prices between there and the rest of Canada? As well, would he agree that the survival and future prosperity of the livestock and poultry industry depends on closing the gap, and accept their recommendation that the Feed Freight Equalization Program be revised to cover 50 per cent of the transportation costs on feed grains from central and western Canada?

**Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Hon. Member's interest in the subject. Let me respond to his first question by saying yes. With respect to his second question, I would throw in a word of caution. I hope that the financial resources will be available to the extent that we can provide some financial assistance in the foreseeable future to this very deserving problem.

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**SOCIAL SECURITY**

**OLD AGE PENSIONERS**

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri-Westmount):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure there is something upon which all Members of the House will agree, that is, that the Government has succeeded in creating confusion, anxiety, insecurity, and even fear among our elderly citizens.

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

**Mr. Johnston:** Yesterday I received calls in my riding—and I am sure it is the same in Don Valley West as I am sure it is true in the riding of every Member of the House—because those people are concerned.

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

[Translation]

**Mr. Johnston:** Not long ago, a woman asked me—and I am going to put the question she asked me to the Right Hon. Prime Minister—she asked me: Mr. Johnston, are they going to take away my pension, my cheques?

That is the question I now wish to put to the Prime Minister. What is he going to say to the people who are asking us these questions?

[English]

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I would answer the Member's question very directly—and I hope through him to his constituents and every Member in the House—that this Government has no intention, has had no intention, nor will it, to remove the old age pensions

from those Canadians who have contributed to our society of which we are all the benefactors. The simple answer to his question is no.

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

**BUDGET PRESENTATION**

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri-Westmount):** Mr. Speaker, I have a short supplementary question which I would like to direct to the Minister of Finance. There is only one way in which we can get rid of the confusion and anxiety, and that is to bring in a budget. Let us see exactly what the Government has in mind, and let us have it quickly. We cannot wait until March, April, May or June.

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether the Hon. Member has directed a question to me, but maybe I could help him out with his concern.

We have tried to put the matter in a very clear way. The comments which were just made by my colleague state what the problem is and what the questions are. We will be putting out a paper on this matter in advance of the Budget so that we can have an objective, fair, honest and open debate. I would encourage the Hon. Member, who has expressed some views in this area, which have the effect in a very clear way of removing universality, but—

**Mr. Johnston:** Creating universality.

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** No, removing universality. I would encourage the Hon. Member, the Hon. Member for Sudbury, and the Leader of the Opposition, to join in this debate in an open and positive way, and not to contribute to any misunderstanding on the part of Canadians who want to receive the benefits of these programs.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**CANADA-UNITED STATES GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT**

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Article 12 of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement with the United States calls for intensified research. Could the Prime Minister explain how the cuts to environmental programs related to the Great Lakes respond to the wording of the Canada-U.S. treaty?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, as I said, the Minister of the Environment will be back to respond tomorrow to that question.