

If this government is truly interested in maintaining the concept of family farming in Canada, will the Leader of the Government in the Senate agree to be our spokesman and as rapidly as possible make his government aware of the very serious problems faced by that industry? I would be eternally grateful to him.

● (1440)

[English]

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, this is the same question that was previously asked by Senator Bonnell, and I give my honourable friend the same answer.

[Translation]

Senator Corbin: Honourable senators, I do not want to argue with the Leader of the Government. However, during his quite legitimate absence the week of February 6, I asked the same question of the Deputy Government Leader, Senator Doody, and outlined the same concerns with the same urgency. Senator Doody promised to look into the matter for me. In view of the present crisis in the potato industry, it is not enough to look into the matter.

The situation is rather like that of the sugar-beet industry. Many producers are faced with bankruptcy.

Is it the policy of the government to let these agricultural sectors disappear? Is it the policy of this government to let market forces operate freely and too bad if century-old family businesses are destroyed?

[English]

Senator Roblin: If my honourable friend wants to debate the issue, why does he not submit an inquiry? I cannot debate it on the floor of the Senate during Question Period.

[Translation]

Senator Corbin: I find the attitude of the Leader of the Government regrettable. When I ask questions, he never wants to debate them. When certain other senators ask questions, he makes lengthy speeches.

Is he interested in the potato industry or not? I have heard enough pious words. I could give you shovelfuls of such words.

Senator Flynn: That is certainly true.

Senator Corbin: Here is Senator Flynn once again!

I simply note, honourable senators, that the government spokesmen sneer when we raise the serious problems of the potato industry. I could not expect anything else on their part. Thank you.

[English]

Senator Roblin: Honourable senators, I am neither sneering nor laughing at my honourable friend. If he wants an answer to his previous question, my honourable colleague, Senator Doody, is a man of his word, and he will get the answer. As to the nature of my responses, perhaps it may be attributed to the

[Senator Corbin.]

fact that I do not know as much about potatoes as I do about some other subjects.

CONCENTRATION CAMPS

Hon. Peter Bosa: Honourable senators, my question is for the Leader of the Government in the Senate. In the early 1980s when the Conservatives formed Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition in the other place, some insinuations were made to the effect that the government of the day was establishing concentration camps in Canada. Now that the honourable gentlemen opposite have been in government for one year and a half or so, have they found any evidence of the existence of such places and, if so, are there any inmates in them?

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, if my honourable friend will furnish me with the details of what the accusation is, who made it, what was said and when, perhaps we could investigate it. But on the basis of a general statement such as my honourable friend has given, there is nothing I can say.

DELAYED ANSWERS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have several delayed answers to questions.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ALLEGED CONDUCT OF FORMER CORPORAL

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer in response to a question asked in the Senate on June 19 last by the Honourable Senator Frith.

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): May I hear that one, please?

Senator Roblin: Certainly. It is a great answer.

The honourable senator's question does not fall within the administrative responsibility of the government.

Senator Frith: What was the question?

Some Hon. Senators: Oh, oh!

Senator Roblin: It is in *Hansard*.

Senator Frith: I have about 20 questions that have not been answered and I do not know which one is being answered.

An Hon. Senator: Take any one of them.

Senator Frith: What was the question that did not fall within something or other? What was the question that did not fall in the right place?

Senator Roblin: My problem is that the answers do not include the questions. It says that it is in response to a question asked in the Senate on June 19, 1985, by the Honourable Royce Frith regarding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police—Alleged Conduct of Former Corporal. The answer is: